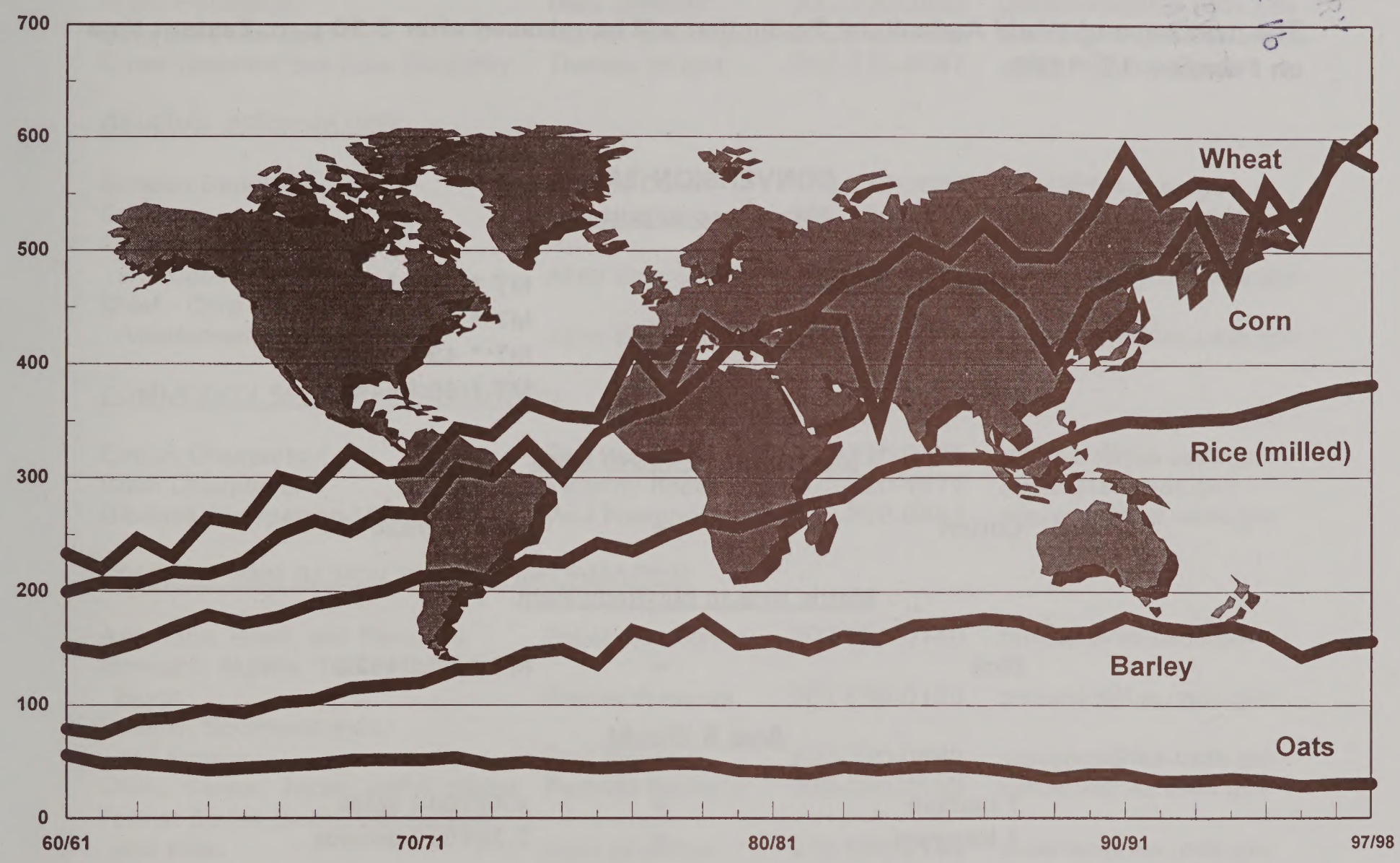
United States
Department of
Agriculture

Foreign
Agricultural
Service

Circular Series
WAP 01-98
January 1998

World Agricultural Production

World Grain Production



Production Articles This Month ...

World Grain

El Nino Effects on Global Agriculture

Approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board / USDA

This report draws on information from USDA's global network of agricultural attaches and counselors, official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source materials, and results of office analysis. Estimates of U.S. acreage, yield, and production are from the USDA's Agricultural Statistics Board, except where noted. This report is based on unrounded data; numbers may not add to totals because of rounding. This report reflects official USDA estimates released in the World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates (WASDE-334), January 13, 1998.

This report was prepared by the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division (PECAD), FAS/USDA, AgStop 1045, Washington, D.C. 20250-1045. Further information may be obtained by writing to the division, by calling (202) 720-0888, or by FAX (202) 720-8880.

The next issue of World Agricultural Production will be released after 3:30 p.m. Eastern time on February 12, 1998.

CONVERSION TABLE

Metric tons to bushels

Wheat & soybeans	=	MT * 36.7437
Corn, sorghum, rye	=	MT * 39.36825
Barley	=	MT * 45.929625
Oats	=	MT * 68.894438

Metric tons to 480-lb bales

Cotton	=	MT * 4.592917

Metric tons to hundredweight

Rice	=	MT * 22.04622

Area & Weight

1 hectare	=	2.471044 acres
1 kilogram	=	2.204622 pounds

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National Agricultural Statistics Service at http://www.usda.gov/nass
World Agricultural Outlook Board at http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob
Economic Research Service at http://www.usda.gov/ers
Joint Agricultural Weather Facility at http://www.usda.gov/oce/waob/jawf

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WHEAT

Country	1997/98 Current Estimate MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change (%)	Change From 1996/97 (%)	Comments
World	608.2	+3.5	+1	+4	Production is projected at a record as output is raised in the total foreign category.
United States	68.8	NC	NC	+11	No change this month.
Total Foreign	539.4	+3.5	+1	+4	Production is forecast at a record level as increases in China and Australia more than offset a decrease in Ukraine.
China	124.0	+3.0	+2	+12	Production is estimated at a record due to favorable weather resulting in a record yield.
Australia	19.0	+1.0	+6	-19	Production is estimated higher based on an increase in yield. Harvest activity is nearly complete.
Ukraine	18.4	-0.6	-3	+36	Production is estimated lower due to preliminary harvest reports indicating reduced yield.

COARSE GRAINS

Country	1997/98 Current Estimate MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change (%)	Change From 1996/97 (%)	Comments
World	890.0	+3.6	+0	-2	Production is projected higher due to increases in the United States and the total foreign category.
United States	265.4	+0.0	+0	-1	Production is projected higher due to a slight increase in corn yield that more than offset a decline in sorghum.
Total Foreign	624.6	+3.6	+1	-2	Production is projected higher as increases in Argentina, Ukraine, and Poland more than offset decreases in South Africa, Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Tanzania.
Argentina	18.7	+2.8	+18	-1	Production is projected higher as favorable weather boosts area and prospective yield for all the major coarse grains. Corn yield is estimated at a record.
Ukraine	15.3	+1.6	+12	+60	Production is projected higher as harvest results indicate increases in corn area and yield, but a decrease in barley yield.

COARSE GRAINS, continued

Country	1997/98 Current Estimate MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change (%)	Change From 1996/97 (%)	Comments
Poland	17.2	+0.4	+2	+3	Production is projected higher due to increased area and yield for corn and oats.
Bulgaria	2.2	+0.3	+13	+54	Production is projected higher due to a favorable growing season that resulted in a bumper corn yield.
South Africa	8.6	-0.5	-6	-10	Production is estimated lower as a dry December caused area to be reduced.
Zimbabwe	1.9	-0.3	-15	-6	Production is projected lower as a dry, hot December reduced corn yield potential.
Tanzania	2.7	-0.3	-10	-31	Production is projected lower due to an earlier drought that reduced corn area and yield.
Kenya	2.2	-0.3	-11	-2	Production is forecast lower as drought during the main-season crop reduced corn area and yield, while excessive rain delayed the short-season crop.

WORLD RICE (MILLED BASIS)

Country	1997/98 Current Estimate MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change (%)	Change From 1996/97 (%)	Comments
World	382.8	+0.1	+0	+1	Production is projected at a record as an increase in the total foreign category more than offset a decrease in the United States.
United States	5.8	-0.0	-1	+4	Production is projected lower due to a decline in yield.
Total Foreign	377.0	+0.1	+0	+1	Production is projected at a record level as an increase in China more than offset a decrease in Indonesia.
China	138.5	+1.5	+1	+1	Production is forecast at a record due to favorable weather over the late-rice growing area that increased yield.
Indonesia	32.0	-1.3	-4	+2	Production is projected lower due to a reduction in area based on a downward revision of last season's rice crop. In addition, yield is estimated lower as the crop was planted late due to the delayed arrival of rain.

OILSEEDS

Country	1997/98 Current Forecast MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change (%)	Change From 1996/97 (%)	Comments
World	280.9	+1.5	+1	+8	Production is projected higher based on an increase in the total foreign category that was partially offset by a small decline in the United States.
United States	84.6	-0.2	-0	+13	Production is projected slightly lower as a decline in soybeans was partially offset by increases in other oilseeds.
Total Foreign	196.4	+1.6	+1	+6	Production is estimated higher because increases in Brazil, China, and Argentina more than offset a decline in Pakistan.
Brazil	30.8	+1.0	+3	+11	Production is estimated higher as soybean planting was completed early under favorable conditions throughout the growing areas. Record yield and area are forecast.
China	40.1	+0.7	+2	-3	Production is estimated up based on preliminary official data which indicates higher soybean and cottonseed yields.
Argentina	21.9	+0.2	+1	+27	Production is estimated higher due to increased inputs and favorable weather which boosted peanut yield prospects.
Pakistan	3.6	-0.4	-9	-3	Production of cottonseed is estimated lower based on weather damage to the cotton crop at harvest.

PALM OIL

Country	1997/98 Current Forecast MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change MMT	1997/98 Monthly Change (%)	Change From 1996/97 (%)	Comments
World	17.7	NC	NC	+2	No change this month. Record production is forecast.

COTTON

Country	1997/98 Current Estimate MBALES	1997/98 Monthly Change MBALES	1997/98 Monthly Change (%)	Change From 1996/97 (%)	Comments
World Total	90.9	+0.8	+1	+2	Production is forecast up due to increases in the United States and total foreign category.
United States	19.0	+0.2	+1	+0	Production is estimated up due to higher yield, more than offsetting a drop in area. The crop is the second largest on record.
Total Foreign	71.9	+0.6	+1	+2	Production is forecast up due to higher output in China and Syria, more than offsetting a drop in Pakistan.
China	19.5	+1.0	+5	+1	Production is estimated up as favorable late-summer and autumn weather in central China led to higher-than-expected yields in several provinces.
Syria	1.6	+0.1	+7	+33	Production is estimated higher due to improved yield prospects resulting from favorable weather during maturation and harvest that allowed additional pickings.
Pakistan	7.0	-0.5	-7	-4	Production is estimated down as persistent unfavorable weather in the Punjab during November and December reduced both harvest area and crop quality.

TABLE 1

U.S. Crop Acreage, Yield, and Production

COMMODITY	Planted Area			Harvested Area			Yield				Production			
		Prel.	Proj.		Prel.	Proj.		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.	
	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.
	--Million acres--			--Million acres--			--Bushels per acre--				--Million bushels--			
All Wheat	69.1	75.6	71.0	60.9	62.9	63.6	35.8	36.3	39.7	39.7	2,183	2,285	2,527	2,527
Winter	48.7	52.0	48.3	41.0	39.7	41.8	37.7	37.2	45.0	45.0	1,545	1,477	1,883	1,883
Other	20.4	23.6	22.7	19.9	23.2	21.8	32.1	34.8	29.6	29.6	638	808	644	644
Soybeans	62.6	64.2	70.9	61.6	63.4	69.9	35.3	37.6	39.2	39.0	2,177	2,382	2,736	2,727
Corn	71.2	79.5	80.2	65.0	73.1	73.7	113.5	127.1	126.4	127.0	7,374	9,293	9,359	9,366
Sorghum	9.5	13.2	10.1	8.3	11.9	9.4	55.6	67.5	69.2	69.5	460	803	659	653
Barley	6.7	7.1	6.9	6.3	6.8	6.4	57.3	58.5	58.3	58.3	360	396	374	374
Oats	6.3	4.7	5.2	3.0	2.7	2.9	54.7	57.8	60.5	60.5	162	155	176	176
							--Pounds per acre--				--Million CWT--			
Rice	3.1	2.8	3.1	3.1	2.8	3.0	5,621	6,121	5,926	5,896	173.9	171.3	180.0	178.9
											--Million 480-pound bales--			
All Cotton	16.9	14.6	13.8	16.0	12.9	13.3	536	707	672	686	17.9	18.9	18.8	19.0

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 2

World Crop Production Summary

Commodity	World	Total Foreign	North America			Europe			FSU-12	Asia					South America		Selected Other			All Others
			United States	Canada	Mexico	European Union	Oth. W. Europe	Eastern Europe		China	India	Indo-nesia	Paki-stan	Thai-land	Argen-tina	Brazil	Aus-tralia	South Africa	Turkey	
	---Million metric tons---																			
Wheat																				
1995/96	537.5	478.1	59.4	25.0	3.4	86.2	1.3	35.0	59.3	102.2	65.5	0.0	17.0	0.0	8.6	1.5	16.5	2.0	15.5	39.2
1996/97 prel.	582.5	520.3	62.2	29.8	3.5	98.6	2.2	26.4	62.9	110.6	62.6	0.0	16.9	0.0	15.9	3.2	23.6	2.7	16.0	45.5
1997/98 proj.																				
Dec.	604.7	535.9	68.8	24.3	3.8	95.3	0.7	34.6	79.9	121.0	68.7	0.0	17.0	0.0	13.2	2.8	18.0	2.3	16.0	38.5
Jan.	608.2	539.4	68.8	24.3	3.8	95.4	0.7	34.4	79.3	124.0	68.7	0.0	17.0	0.0	13.2	2.8	19.0	2.3	16.0	38.6
Coarse Grains																				
1995/96	801.8	592.4	209.4	24.1	23.8	88.5	2.7	51.4	57.4	124.5	29.7	6.0	1.8	3.9	14.1	33.2	9.6	11.0	9.4	101.2
1996/97 prel.	907.6	640.0	267.6	28.2	26.3	103.7	3.7	49.6	52.5	141.4	33.1	6.5	1.9	4.1	18.9	37.0	10.0	9.5	9.5	104.3
1997/98 proj.																				
Dec.	886.4	620.9	265.4	25.2	25.2	108.7	2.8	56.7	65.2	118.2	31.2	6.5	1.9	3.5	15.9	33.8	8.4	9.1	10.3	98.6
Jan.	890.0	624.6	265.4	25.2	25.2	108.7	2.8	57.4	66.8	118.2	31.2	6.5	1.9	3.5	18.7	33.8	8.4	8.6	10.3	97.6
Rice (Milled)																				
1995/96	371.2	365.6	5.6	0.0	0.2	1.2	0.0	0.0	0.8	129.7	79.6	33.2	3.9	14.4	0.6	6.8	0.7	0.0	0.2	94.1
1996/97 prel.	378.6	373.0	5.6	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.7	136.6	80.5	31.5	4.3	13.7	0.8	6.6	1.0	0.0	0.3	95.1
1997/98 proj.																				
Dec.	382.7	376.8	5.9	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	137.0	81.5	33.3	4.3	14.0	0.8	6.5	0.9	0.0	0.3	95.6
Jan.	382.8	377.0	5.8	0.0	0.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.8	138.5	81.5	32.0	4.3	14.0	0.8	6.5	0.9	0.0	0.3	95.5
Total Grains 1/																				
1995/96	1710.6	1436.1	274.5	49.2	27.5	175.9	4.0	86.5	117.5	356.4	174.8	39.2	22.8	18.3	23.3	41.6	26.8	12.9	25.1	234.6
1996/97 prel.	1868.7	1533.3	335.3	58.0	30.0	203.9	5.9	76.0	116.2	388.5	176.2	38.0	23.0	17.8	35.6	46.8	34.6	12.2	25.8	244.8
1997/98 proj.																				
Dec.	1873.7	1533.7	340.0	49.5	29.3	205.5	3.4	91.3	145.8	376.2	181.4	39.8	23.2	17.5	29.9	43.1	27.2	11.4	26.6	232.6
Jan.	1881.0	1541.0	340.0	49.5	29.3	205.7	3.4	91.8	146.8	380.7	181.4	38.5	23.2	17.5	32.8	43.1	28.2	10.9	26.6	231.7
Oilseeds 2/																				
1995/96	258.9	189.8	69.1	8.8	0.7	13.1	0.1	5.3	11.3	43.3	25.1	2.6	4.0	0.6	19.2	25.0	1.4	1.1	2.2	26.1
1996/97 prel.	259.3	184.4	74.8	7.3	0.6	12.8	0.1	4.6	8.6	41.4	26.0	2.5	3.7	0.5	17.3	27.6	1.7	0.8	1.8	27.2
1997/98 proj.																				
Dec.	279.5	194.8	84.7	9.0	0.7	14.4	0.1	4.3	8.9	39.4	26.5	2.5	3.9	0.5	21.7	29.8	2.0	1.0	1.9	28.2
Jan.	280.9	196.4	84.6	9.0	0.7	14.5	0.1	4.4	8.9	40.1	26.5	2.5	3.5	0.5	21.9	30.8	2.0	1.0	1.9	28.2
Cotton																				
1995/96	93.0	75.1	17.9	0.0	1.0	2.2	0.0	0.0	8.3	21.9	13.3	0.0	8.2	0.0	1.9	1.8	2.0	0.2	3.9	10.4
1996/97 prel.	89.2	70.3	18.9	0.0	1.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	6.5	19.3	13.8	0.0	7.3	0.0	1.5	1.3	2.8	0.2	3.6	11.1
1997/98 proj.																				
Dec.	90.1	71.3	18.8	0.0	0.9	2.1	0.0	0.0	7.3	18.5	12.8	0.0	7.5	0.0	2.1	1.8	2.9	0.2	3.3	11.8
Jan.	90.9	71.9	19.0	0.0	0.9	2.2	0.0	0.0	7.3	19.5	12.8	0.0	7.0	0.0	2.1	1.8	2.9	0.2	3.3	11.9

1/ Includes wheat, coarse grains, and rice (milled) shown above.
2/ Includes soybean, cottonseed, peanut (inshell), sunflowerseed, rapeseed for individual countries. Copra and palm kernel are added to world totals.
Note: Entries of 0.0 indicate no reported or insignificant production.

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 3

Wheat Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	219.52	231.04	229.05	229.31	2.45	2.52	2.64	2.65	537.53	582.52	604.66	608.18	3.53	0.58	25.66	4.40
United States	24.66	25.47	25.73	25.73	2.41	2.44	2.67	2.67	59.40	62.19	68.76	68.76	0.00	0.00	6.57	10.56
Total Foreign	194.86	205.58	203.32	203.58	2.45	2.53	2.64	2.65	478.13	520.33	535.89	539.42	3.53	0.66	19.09	3.67
Major Exporters	41.52	47.46	45.03	45.11	3.28	3.54	3.35	3.37	136.30	167.84	150.76	151.89	1.13	0.75	-15.94	-9.50
European Union	16.16	16.77	17.03	17.11	5.33	5.88	5.60	5.57	86.16	98.55	95.26	95.39	0.13	0.14	-3.16	-3.20
France	4.75	5.02	5.12	5.12	6.50	7.15	6.68	6.68	30.86	35.94	34.20	34.20	0.00	0.00	-1.74	-4.84
United Kingdom	1.86	1.98	2.03	2.03	7.70	8.15	7.39	7.39	14.31	16.10	15.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	-1.10	-6.83
Germany	2.58	2.59	2.70	2.70	6.89	7.29	7.37	7.37	17.76	18.92	19.90	19.90	0.00	0.00	0.98	5.17
Canada	11.14	12.26	11.40	11.40	2.25	2.43	2.13	2.13	25.04	29.80	24.30	24.30	0.00	0.00	-5.50	-18.46
Australia	9.72	11.33	10.80	10.80	1.70	2.08	1.67	1.76	16.50	23.59	18.00	19.00	1.00	5.56	-4.59	-19.44
Argentina	4.50	7.10	5.80	5.80	1.91	2.24	2.28	2.28	8.60	15.90	13.20	13.20	0.00	0.00	-2.70	-16.98
Major Importers	88.12	92.66	93.10	93.21	2.34	2.33	2.66	2.68	205.82	216.11	247.61	249.84	2.23	0.90	33.73	15.61
China	28.86	29.61	30.00	30.00	3.54	3.73	4.03	4.13	102.22	110.57	121.00	124.00	3.00	2.48	13.43	12.15
FSU-12	45.36	47.79	47.61	47.61	1.31	1.32	1.68	1.67	59.32	62.94	79.87	79.27	-0.60	-0.75	16.33	25.94
Russia	23.91	25.72	25.70	25.70	1.26	1.36	1.71	1.71	30.10	34.90	44.00	44.00	0.00	0.00	9.10	26.07
Ukraine	5.48	6.25	6.50	6.50	2.97	2.16	2.92	2.83	16.27	13.50	19.00	18.40	-0.60	-3.16	4.90	36.30
Kazakstan	12.55	12.20	11.50	11.50	0.52	0.63	0.75	0.75	6.49	7.70	8.65	8.65	0.00	0.00	0.95	12.34
Baltic States	0.41	0.52	0.55	0.55	2.36	2.61	2.62	2.62	0.96	1.37	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.07	5.49
Eastern Europe	9.71	8.71	9.86	9.96	3.60	3.03	3.51	3.45	34.98	26.40	34.55	34.38	-0.17	-0.49	7.98	30.23
Poland	2.41	2.48	2.45	2.55	3.60	3.46	3.39	3.24	8.67	8.58	8.30	8.25	-0.05	-0.60	-0.33	-3.83
Romania	2.42	1.80	2.35	2.35	3.18	1.76	2.98	2.98	7.70	3.17	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	3.84	121.17
Egypt	1.06	1.02	1.04	1.04	5.40	5.64	5.60	5.60	5.70	5.74	5.85	5.85	0.00	0.00	0.11	2.01
Morocco	1.70	3.22	2.50	2.50	0.65	1.83	0.84	0.84	1.10	5.90	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00	-3.80	-64.41
Brazil	1.03	1.80	1.55	1.55	1.49	1.78	1.81	1.81	1.54	3.20	2.80	2.80	0.00	0.00	-0.40	-12.50
Other Foreign	65.22	65.45	65.19	65.26	2.09	2.08	2.11	2.11	136.01	136.38	137.52	137.69	0.17	0.12	1.30	0.96
India	25.60	25.10	25.90	25.90	2.56	2.49	2.65	2.65	65.47	62.62	68.70	68.70	0.00	0.00	6.08	9.71
Turkey	8.55	8.45	8.50	8.50	1.81	1.89	1.88	1.88	15.50	16.00	16.00	16.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pakistan	8.17	8.38	8.10	8.10	2.08	2.02	2.10	2.10	17.00	16.91	17.00	17.00	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.55
Mexico	0.93	0.81	0.92	0.92	3.73	4.17	4.13	4.13	3.47	3.38	3.80	3.80	0.00	0.00	0.43	12.59
Saudi Arabia	0.47	0.27	0.33	0.33	4.30	4.53	4.55	4.55	2.00	1.20	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.30	25.00
South Africa	1.36	1.29	1.38	1.38	1.43	2.09	1.67	1.67	1.95	2.70	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	-0.40	-14.81
Others	20.14	21.16	20.06	20.13	1.52	1.59	1.41	1.41	30.62	33.58	28.22	28.39	0.17	0.58	-5.19	-15.47

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TABLE 4

Total Coarse Grain Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	313.36	323.01	318.15	318.41	2.56	2.81	2.79	2.80	801.85	907.57	886.35	889.99	3.64	0.41	-17.58	-1.94
United States	33.55	38.38	37.73	37.55	6.24	6.97	7.03	7.07	209.44	267.56	265.40	265.42	0.02	0.01	-2.14	-0.80
Total Foreign	279.81	284.63	280.42	280.86	2.12	2.25	2.21	2.22	592.41	640.01	620.94	624.57	3.62	0.58	-15.45	-2.41
Major Exporters	21.57	23.43	22.00	22.18	2.91	3.02	2.82	2.90	62.72	70.72	62.07	64.38	2.32	3.73	-6.33	-8.96
Canada	6.97	8.00	7.63	7.63	3.46	3.52	3.31	3.31	24.12	28.19	25.22	25.22	0.00	0.00	-2.98	-10.57
Argentina	3.95	4.66	4.14	4.52	3.57	4.06	3.85	4.14	14.09	18.93	15.91	18.73	2.82	17.70	-0.20	-1.08
Australia	5.03	5.06	4.84	4.84	1.91	1.97	1.73	1.73	9.63	9.97	8.36	8.36	0.00	0.00	-1.61	-16.18
South Africa	4.32	4.34	4.21	4.01	2.54	2.19	2.16	2.14	10.99	9.53	9.09	8.59	-0.50	-5.50	-0.94	-9.84
Thailand	1.30	1.36	1.19	1.19	3.00	3.01	2.94	2.94	3.90	4.10	3.50	3.50	0.00	0.00	-0.60	-14.63
Major Importers	89.91	86.67	87.29	87.87	2.50	2.73	2.98	2.98	224.78	236.49	260.01	262.22	2.21	0.85	25.73	10.88
FSU-12	43.80	38.98	38.52	38.82	1.31	1.35	1.69	1.72	57.36	52.52	65.17	66.77	1.60	2.46	14.24	27.12
Russia	27.21	24.85	24.80	24.80	1.13	1.28	1.61	1.61	30.70	31.80	39.90	39.90	0.00	0.00	8.10	25.47
Ukraine	6.90	5.83	6.00	6.30	2.26	1.64	2.28	2.43	15.61	9.54	13.70	15.30	1.60	11.68	5.76	60.38
Kazakstan	5.81	4.55	3.96	3.96	0.47	0.71	0.80	0.80	2.76	3.23	3.16	3.16	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-2.17
Baltic States	1.28	1.20	1.16	1.16	1.61	2.20	2.19	2.19	2.05	2.63	2.54	2.54	0.00	0.00	-0.09	-3.53
European Union	18.48	19.63	20.40	20.54	4.79	5.29	5.33	5.29	88.49	103.74	108.67	108.67	0.01	0.01	4.94	4.76
Germany	3.95	4.11	4.36	4.36	5.60	5.64	5.87	5.87	22.10	23.21	25.55	25.55	0.00	0.00	2.34	10.06
France	3.42	3.67	3.93	3.93	6.43	7.07	7.33	7.33	21.96	25.96	28.82	28.82	0.00	0.00	2.86	11.00
Eastern Europe	16.15	16.18	16.23	16.37	3.19	3.06	3.50	3.50	51.44	49.56	56.75	57.35	0.60	1.06	7.79	15.73
Poland	6.17	6.24	6.19	6.34	2.79	2.68	2.71	2.71	17.24	16.72	16.79	17.18	0.39	2.35	0.46	2.76
Romania	3.96	4.04	3.95	3.95	3.05	2.74	3.65	3.65	12.08	11.07	14.39	14.39	0.00	0.00	3.32	30.00
Czech Rep.	0.72	0.76	0.84	0.83	3.74	3.73	3.92	3.91	2.70	2.85	3.30	3.25	-0.04	-1.27	0.40	14.18
Mexico	9.83	10.30	10.60	10.60	2.43	2.55	2.38	2.38	23.85	26.25	25.20	25.20	0.00	0.00	-1.05	-4.00
Other W. Europe	0.38	0.38	0.37	0.37	4.23	4.74	4.56	4.56	1.59	1.79	1.69	1.69	0.00	0.00	-0.11	-5.92
Other Foreign	168.34	174.53	171.14	170.82	1.81	1.91	1.75	1.74	304.91	332.80	298.87	297.97	-0.90	-0.30	-34.84	-10.47
China	27.33	29.15	27.98	27.98	4.56	4.85	4.22	4.22	124.50	141.37	118.15	118.15	0.00	0.00	-23.22	-16.42
India	31.48	32.18	31.68	31.68	0.94	1.03	0.98	0.98	29.69	33.05	31.20	31.20	0.00	0.00	-1.85	-5.60
Brazil	14.33	14.48	13.79	13.79	2.32	2.55	2.45	2.45	33.24	36.99	33.81	33.81	0.00	0.00	-3.19	-8.61
Turkey	4.50	4.68	4.78	4.78	2.08	2.12	2.16	2.16	9.36	9.93	10.33	10.33	0.00	0.00	0.40	4.03
Indonesia	3.53	3.55	3.50	3.50	1.70	1.83	1.86	1.86	6.00	6.50	6.50	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Philippines	2.76	2.73	2.70	2.70	1.57	1.56	1.56	1.56	4.32	4.25	4.20	4.20	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-1.18
Others	84.40	87.75	86.72	86.39	1.16	1.15	1.09	1.09	97.80	100.72	94.68	93.78	-0.90	-0.95	-6.94	-6.89

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TABLE 5
Corn Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	134.20	141.46	140.70	140.55	3.84	4.19	4.07	4.10	515.49	592.48	572.63	576.04	3.42	0.60	-16.44	-2.77
United States	26.30	29.60	29.97	29.83	7.12	7.97	7.93	7.97	187.31	236.06	237.74	237.90	0.15	0.07	1.83	0.78
Total Foreign	107.89	111.86	110.73	110.72	3.04	3.19	3.02	3.05	328.19	356.42	334.89	338.15	3.26	0.97	-18.27	-5.13
Major Exporters	7.14	7.96	7.23	7.23	3.50	3.57	3.43	3.64	25.00	28.41	24.80	26.30	1.50	6.05	-2.11	-7.43
Argentina	2.70	3.40	3.00	3.20	4.11	4.56	4.33	4.69	11.10	15.50	13.00	15.00	2.00	15.38	-0.50	-3.23
South Africa	3.30	3.36	3.20	3.00	3.09	2.68	2.66	2.67	10.20	9.01	8.50	8.00	-0.50	-5.88	-1.01	-11.23
Thailand	1.14	1.20	1.03	1.03	3.25	3.25	3.20	3.20	3.70	3.90	3.30	3.30	0.00	0.00	-0.60	-15.38
Major Importers	20.95	21.56	22.51	22.82	3.79	3.95	4.18	4.24	79.36	85.07	94.02	96.73	2.71	2.88	11.66	13.70
Eastern Europe	6.85	7.04	6.88	6.90	3.62	3.62	4.39	4.44	24.77	25.46	30.18	30.59	0.41	1.36	5.13	20.14
Romania	3.12	3.29	3.10	3.10	3.18	2.92	3.87	3.87	9.92	9.61	12.00	12.00	0.00	0.00	2.39	24.87
Yugoslavia	2.00	2.10	2.10	2.10	3.85	3.62	4.52	4.52	7.70	7.60	9.50	9.50	0.00	0.00	1.90	25.00
European Union	3.73	4.10	4.32	4.32	7.83	8.50	8.78	8.78	29.22	34.80	37.89	37.89	0.00	0.00	3.08	8.86
France	1.62	1.72	1.82	1.82	7.64	8.41	9.09	9.09	12.39	14.43	16.50	16.50	0.00	0.00	2.07	14.33
Italy	0.94	1.02	1.05	1.05	8.97	9.33	9.05	9.05	8.45	9.55	9.50	9.50	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-0.49
Mexico	7.80	8.20	8.50	8.50	2.28	2.38	2.18	2.18	17.78	19.50	18.50	18.50	0.00	0.00	-1.00	-5.13
FSU-12	2.47	2.14	2.72	3.02	2.84	2.26	2.56	3.07	7.01	4.82	6.97	9.27	2.30	33.02	4.44	92.06
Russia	0.64	0.70	0.80	0.80	2.64	1.57	2.13	2.13	1.70	1.10	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.60	54.55
Ukraine	1.16	0.70	1.20	1.50	2.92	2.71	2.50	3.53	3.39	1.90	3.00	5.30	2.30	76.67	3.40	178.95
Other W. Europe	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03	8.65	8.96	8.80	8.80	0.23	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.33
Others	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	4.60	3.96	3.96	3.96	0.35	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Foreign	79.81	82.34	80.99	80.67	2.80	2.95	2.67	2.67	223.83	242.93	216.07	215.12	-0.95	-0.44	-27.81	-11.45
China	22.77	24.50	23.50	23.50	4.92	5.20	4.47	4.47	112.00	127.47	105.00	105.00	0.00	0.00	-22.47	-17.63
Brazil	13.77	13.88	13.20	13.20	2.36	2.61	2.50	2.50	32.48	36.16	33.00	33.00	0.00	0.00	-3.16	-8.74
India	6.01	6.10	6.10	6.10	1.57	1.66	1.64	1.64	9.44	10.10	10.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-0.99
Canada	1.00	1.06	1.05	1.05	7.25	6.98	6.84	6.84	7.27	7.38	7.18	7.18	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-2.71
Indonesia	3.53	3.55	3.50	3.50	1.70	1.83	1.86	1.86	6.00	6.50	6.50	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Philippines	2.76	2.73	2.70	2.70	1.57	1.56	1.56	1.56	4.32	4.25	4.20	4.20	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-1.18
Egypt	0.90	0.88	0.93	0.93	5.93	6.65	6.16	6.16	5.35	5.83	5.70	5.70	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-2.15
Zimbabwe	1.55	1.64	1.40	1.40	1.68	1.10	1.43	1.21	2.60	1.80	2.00	1.70	-0.30	-15.00	-0.10	-5.56
Others	27.52	28.01	28.62	28.29	1.61	1.55	1.48	1.48	44.36	43.44	42.49	41.84	-0.65	-1.53	-1.61	-3.70

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TABLE 6

Barley Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	68.70	66.66	65.84	66.02	2.08	2.31	2.39	2.37	142.75	153.69	157.07	156.45	-0.62	-0.39	2.76	1.80
United States	2.54	2.74	2.60	2.60	3.08	3.15	3.14	3.14	7.83	8.62	8.15	8.15	0.00	0.00	-0.46	-5.37
Total Foreign	66.16	63.92	63.24	63.42	2.04	2.27	2.35	2.34	134.92	145.07	148.91	148.30	-0.62	-0.41	3.23	2.22
European Union	10.77	11.37	11.77	11.88	4.06	4.55	4.48	4.43	43.71	51.68	52.73	52.63	-0.10	-0.19	0.95	1.84
Denmark	0.72	0.74	0.82	0.75	5.40	5.36	5.12	5.33	3.86	3.95	4.20	4.00	-0.20	-4.76	0.05	1.19
France	1.39	1.53	1.66	1.66	5.56	6.25	6.14	6.14	7.74	9.54	10.20	10.20	0.00	0.00	0.66	6.92
Germany	2.11	2.21	2.30	2.30	5.64	5.47	5.83	5.83	11.89	12.07	13.40	13.40	0.00	0.00	1.33	10.98
Italy	0.38	0.35	0.30	0.30	3.64	3.74	3.67	3.67	1.39	1.31	1.10	1.10	0.00	0.00	-0.21	-16.22
Spain	3.30	3.53	3.53	3.71	1.58	2.72	2.41	2.32	5.20	9.60	8.50	8.60	0.10	1.18	-1.00	-10.42
United Kingdom	1.19	1.27	1.33	1.33	5.73	6.14	5.86	5.86	6.83	7.78	7.80	7.80	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.26
FSU-12	25.87	20.95	20.98	20.98	1.21	1.33	1.73	1.69	31.40	27.90	36.20	35.50	-0.70	-1.93	7.59	27.21
Russia	14.71	11.85	12.50	12.50	1.07	1.34	1.76	1.76	15.80	15.90	22.00	22.00	0.00	0.00	6.10	38.36
Ukraine	4.41	3.75	3.50	3.50	2.18	1.52	2.29	2.09	9.63	5.70	8.00	7.30	-0.70	-8.75	1.60	28.07
Kazakstan	4.79	3.60	3.20	3.20	0.45	0.75	0.81	0.81	2.18	2.70	2.60	2.60	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-3.70
Baltic States	0.94	0.81	0.73	0.73	1.56	2.29	2.29	2.29	1.46	1.86	1.67	1.67	0.00	0.00	-0.19	-10.31
Eastern Europe	3.41	3.31	3.63	3.66	3.30	2.92	3.37	3.31	11.25	9.69	12.21	12.11	-0.09	-0.75	2.43	25.05
Poland	1.05	1.13	1.20	1.24	3.13	3.04	3.25	3.11	3.28	3.44	3.90	3.87	-0.03	-0.67	0.44	12.71
Czech Rep.	0.56	0.60	0.65	0.65	3.84	3.77	4.00	3.93	2.14	2.26	2.60	2.54	-0.06	-2.50	0.27	12.07
Romania	0.57	0.50	0.62	0.62	2.98	2.22	3.23	3.23	1.70	1.11	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.89	80.18
Canada	4.37	4.89	4.70	4.70	2.99	3.18	2.90	2.90	13.04	15.56	13.65	13.65	0.00	0.00	-1.91	-12.29
Other W. Europe	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	3.82	4.49	4.27	4.27	0.88	1.03	0.96	0.96	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-6.98
Norway	0.18	0.18	0.17	0.17	3.29	3.83	3.88	3.88	0.58	0.67	0.66	0.66	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-1.49
Turkey	3.55	3.65	3.65	3.65	1.94	1.97	1.97	1.97	6.90	7.20	7.20	7.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Australia	3.11	3.27	3.20	3.20	1.87	2.03	1.72	1.72	5.82	6.63	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00	-1.13	-17.07
China	1.28	1.30	1.30	1.30	3.19	3.08	3.08	3.08	4.09	4.00	4.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Morocco	1.30	2.43	2.00	2.00	0.46	1.56	0.65	0.65	0.60	3.80	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00	-2.50	-65.79
India	0.89	0.88	0.88	0.88	1.94	1.88	1.93	1.93	1.73	1.65	1.70	1.70	0.00	0.00	0.05	3.03
Others	10.43	10.83	10.18	10.22	1.34	1.30	1.16	1.18	14.03	14.07	11.81	12.08	0.28	2.33	-1.99	-14.12

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TABLE 7

Oats Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
	1995/96	Prel. 1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	Prel. 1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	Prel. 1996/97	1997/98 Proj. Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	18.45	17.78	16.94	16.98	1.56	1.72	1.79	1.80	28.83	30.62	30.37	30.61	0.24	0.79	-0.01	-0.03
United States	1.20	1.09	1.18	1.18	1.96	2.07	2.17	2.17	2.35	2.25	2.56	2.56	0.00	0.00	0.30	13.40
Total Foreign	17.25	16.70	15.76	15.80	1.54	1.70	1.76	1.78	26.48	28.36	27.81	28.05	0.24	0.86	-0.31	-1.10
FSU-12	9.34	8.22	7.70	7.70	1.14	1.22	1.44	1.44	10.69	10.00	11.08	11.08	0.00	0.00	1.08	10.80
Russia	7.93	6.93	6.50	6.50	1.08	1.20	1.38	1.38	8.60	8.30	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.70	8.43
Ukraine	0.56	0.53	0.50	0.50	1.99	1.32	2.00	2.00	1.12	0.70	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	42.86
Belarus	0.33	0.30	0.30	0.30	2.12	2.33	2.33	2.33	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baltic States	0.13	0.15	0.15	0.15	1.64	2.06	2.07	2.07	0.22	0.32	0.31	0.31	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-2.52
Maj. Foreign Exporters	2.61	3.02	2.60	2.60	1.94	2.11	1.92	1.93	5.08	6.37	4.99	5.02	0.03	0.60	-1.35	-21.26
Canada	1.20	1.68	1.50	1.50	2.38	2.59	2.32	2.32	2.86	4.36	3.49	3.49	0.00	0.00	-0.88	-20.09
Australia	1.14	1.09	0.85	0.85	1.65	1.56	1.41	1.41	1.88	1.70	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	-0.50	-29.33
Argentina	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	1.27	1.24	1.20	1.32	0.35	0.31	0.30	0.33	0.03	10.00	0.02	6.45
Other Foreign	5.49	5.67	5.68	5.72	2.11	2.28	2.23	2.25	11.59	12.93	12.68	12.89	0.21	1.66	-0.05	-0.37
China	0.54	0.55	0.55	0.55	1.19	1.18	1.18	1.18	0.64	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
European Union	1.82	1.94	1.92	1.96	3.20	3.56	3.44	3.38	5.83	6.90	6.61	6.62	0.01	0.15	-0.27	-3.99
France	0.15	0.14	0.13	0.13	4.14	4.41	4.23	4.23	0.62	0.62	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	-0.07	-11.58
Germany	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.30	4.60	5.32	5.33	5.33	1.42	1.61	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-0.37
Italy	0.14	0.14	0.13	0.13	2.23	2.49	2.31	2.31	0.30	0.35	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-15.01
Finland	0.33	0.37	0.37	0.37	3.33	3.37	3.37	3.37	1.10	1.26	1.24	1.24	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-1.43
Sweden	0.27	0.28	0.32	0.32	3.47	4.32	4.05	4.05	0.95	1.20	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00	0.07	6.25
Eastern Europe	1.14	1.16	1.18	1.18	2.23	2.19	2.26	2.42	2.53	2.54	2.66	2.86	0.20	7.53	0.31	12.31
Czech Rep.	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.08	3.12	3.24	3.33	3.33	0.19	0.21	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.04	16.82
Poland	0.60	0.63	0.65	0.66	2.51	2.53	2.46	2.75	1.50	1.58	1.60	1.80	0.20	12.50	0.22	13.85
Yugoslavia	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.13	1.67	1.85	1.85	1.85	0.20	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Norway	0.09	0.10	0.09	0.09	3.80	4.18	3.91	3.91	0.35	0.40	0.36	0.36	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-9.23
Turkey	0.15	0.15	0.14	0.14	1.83	1.72	1.79	1.79	0.28	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	1.42	1.41	1.43	1.43	0.61	0.66	0.63	0.63	0.87	0.94	0.90	0.90	-0.00	-0.00	-0.03	-3.32

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TABLE 8
Rye Area, Yield, and Production
World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	10.01	10.76	10.45	10.44	2.19	2.07	2.23	2.24	21.89	22.22	23.32	23.43	0.00	0.00	1.21	5.45
United States	0.16	0.14	0.14	0.14	1.64	1.64	1.64	1.64	0.26	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-1.31
Total Foreign	9.86	10.62	10.31	10.30	2.20	2.07	2.24	2.25	21.64	21.99	23.09	23.20	0.11	0.49	1.21	5.52
FSU-12	5.03	5.95	5.68	5.68	1.48	1.51	1.76	1.76	7.46	9.00	9.97	9.97	0.00	0.00	0.97	10.77
Russia	3.23	4.13	4.00	4.00	1.27	1.43	1.63	1.63	4.10	5.90	6.50	6.50	0.00	0.00	0.60	10.17
Ukraine	0.61	0.62	0.60	0.60	2.00	1.77	2.50	2.50	1.21	1.10	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.40	36.36
Belarus	1.00	1.05	1.00	1.00	2.00	1.81	1.90	1.90	2.00	1.90	1.90	1.90	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Baltic States	0.21	0.23	0.28	0.28	1.78	1.96	2.00	2.00	0.37	0.45	0.56	0.56	0.00	0.00	0.11	23.62
Major Exporter																
Canada	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1.91	1.91	1.94	1.94	0.31	0.31	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-2.91
Other Foreign	4.46	4.27	4.19	4.19	3.03	2.86	2.92	2.95	13.50	12.23	12.26	12.37	0.11	0.92	0.15	1.19
Eastern Europe	2.72	2.66	2.56	2.55	2.55	2.32	2.33	2.34	6.93	6.16	5.96	5.96	0.01	0.12	-0.20	-3.26
Hungary	0.08	0.07	0.07	0.07	2.13	1.43	2.00	2.00	0.17	0.10	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.04	40.00
Poland	2.45	2.42	2.30	2.30	2.56	2.34	2.30	2.31	6.29	5.65	5.30	5.32	0.02	0.42	-0.33	-5.84
Czech Rep.	0.08	0.06	0.08	0.08	3.32	3.19	3.50	3.49	0.26	0.20	0.28	0.27	-0.02	-5.36	0.06	29.90
European Union	1.41	1.32	1.35	1.34	4.34	4.30	4.40	4.48	6.13	5.68	5.92	6.02	0.09	1.60	0.34	5.93
Denmark	0.10	0.07	0.08	0.09	5.00	4.76	4.80	5.33	0.50	0.34	0.36	0.48	0.12	33.33	0.14	39.94
France	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	4.21	4.59	4.00	4.00	0.20	0.23	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-11.11
Germany	0.86	0.81	0.85	0.85	5.25	5.21	5.38	5.38	4.52	4.21	4.55	4.55	0.00	0.00	0.34	7.97
Spain	0.16	0.17	0.17	0.15	1.09	1.74	1.47	1.48	0.17	0.30	0.25	0.23	-0.03	-10.00	-0.07	-23.73
Austria	0.08	0.05	0.06	0.06	4.08	2.96	3.64	3.64	0.31	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.05	32.45
Sweden	0.05	0.03	0.03	0.03	4.51	5.52	5.17	5.17	0.20	0.18	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-17.58
Turkey	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	1.42	1.39	1.39	1.39	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.15	0.11	0.11	0.11	1.17	1.15	1.14	1.23	0.18	0.13	0.13	0.14	0.01	8.40	0.01	7.58

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TABLE 9

Sorghum Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	40.88	44.42	42.93	42.98	1.35	1.54	1.47	1.47	55.25	68.34	63.01	63.37	0.36	0.58	-4.97	-7.27
United States	3.35	4.82	3.85	3.80	3.49	4.24	4.35	4.37	11.69	20.40	16.73	16.59	-0.14	-0.82	-3.81	-18.66
Total Foreign	37.53	39.60	39.08	39.18	1.16	1.21	1.18	1.19	43.56	47.95	46.28	46.78	0.50	1.08	-1.16	-2.43
India	11.44	11.70	11.20	11.20	0.83	0.90	0.80	0.80	9.55	10.50	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	-1.50	-14.29
China	1.22	1.29	1.23	1.23	3.91	4.39	4.47	4.47	4.76	5.68	5.50	5.50	0.00	0.00	-0.18	-3.10
Mexico	1.73	1.80	1.80	1.80	3.21	3.44	3.44	3.44	5.57	6.20	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nigeria	6.40	6.45	6.50	6.50	1.02	1.02	1.08	1.08	6.50	6.60	7.00	7.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	6.06
Sudan	5.00	6.30	6.30	6.30	0.49	0.63	0.67	0.67	2.45	4.00	4.20	4.20	0.00	0.00	0.20	5.00
Argentina	0.63	0.68	0.55	0.70	3.32	3.70	3.64	3.57	2.10	2.50	2.00	2.50	0.50	25.00	0.00	0.00
Australia	0.65	0.56	0.65	0.65	2.38	2.15	2.00	2.00	1.56	1.21	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00	0.09	7.26
Ethiopia	1.30	1.85	1.80	1.80	1.31	1.08	1.11	1.11	1.70	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Colombia	0.17	0.13	0.12	0.12	3.20	3.28	3.33	3.33	0.55	0.41	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-2.44
Venezuela	0.19	0.15	0.16	0.16	1.62	1.62	1.61	1.61	0.30	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Egypt	0.15	0.14	0.15	0.15	5.24	5.31	5.10	5.10	0.78	0.76	0.77	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.66
Yemen	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45	1.03	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.46	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tanzania	0.69	0.67	0.68	0.63	1.22	1.32	0.74	0.80	0.84	0.88	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	-0.38	-42.86
Niger	1.50	1.50	1.40	1.40	0.20	0.27	0.30	0.30	0.31	0.40	0.43	0.43	0.00	0.00	0.03	6.25
South Africa	0.17	0.16	0.16	0.16	2.56	1.88	2.19	2.19	0.45	0.30	0.35	0.35	0.00	0.00	0.05	16.67
Thailand	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	5.68	5.62	5.78	5.77	0.97	1.00	0.99	0.99	5.50	5.61	5.74	5.74	0.00	0.02	0.13	2.32

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TABLE 10

Rice Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield (Rough)				Production (Milled)				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	148.05	148.62	148.62	148.45	3.72	3.77	3.82	3.82	371.19	378.56	382.70	382.79	0.09	0.02	4.23	1.12
United States	1.25	1.13	1.23	1.23	6.30	6.86	6.64	6.61	5.63	5.60	5.88	5.84	-0.03	-0.60	0.25	4.43
Total Foreign	146.80	147.49	147.39	147.22	3.70	3.75	3.79	3.80	365.56	372.97	376.82	376.95	0.13	0.03	3.98	1.07
Major Exporters	23.98	24.06	24.15	24.15	2.98	2.91	2.96	2.96	45.87	44.96	45.90	45.90	0.00	0.00	0.94	2.09
Vietnam	7.12	7.05	7.10	7.10	3.76	3.87	3.84	3.84	17.68	18.00	18.00	18.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Thailand	9.03	9.18	9.20	9.20	2.41	2.26	2.31	2.31	14.39	13.70	14.00	14.00	0.00	0.00	0.30	2.19
Burma	5.67	5.60	5.65	5.65	3.00	2.77	2.93	2.93	9.86	9.00	9.60	9.60	0.00	0.00	0.60	6.67
Pakistan	2.16	2.23	2.20	2.20	2.73	2.87	2.93	2.93	3.94	4.26	4.30	4.30	0.00	0.00	0.04	0.94
Major Importers	16.05	15.64	16.01	15.81	4.09	4.08	4.16	4.09	43.55	42.64	44.37	43.10	-1.27	-2.86	0.46	1.07
Indonesia	11.57	11.10	11.50	11.30	4.42	4.37	4.45	4.36	33.22	31.53	33.30	32.00	-1.30	-3.90	0.48	1.51
South Korea	1.06	1.05	1.05	1.05	6.05	6.85	7.01	7.01	4.69	5.32	5.45	5.45	0.00	0.00	0.13	2.44
European Union	0.36	0.41	0.41	0.41	5.54	6.16	6.02	6.11	1.23	1.60	1.57	1.60	0.03	1.92	-0.01	-0.31
Iran	0.57	0.60	0.60	0.60	4.08	4.00	4.00	4.00	1.55	1.60	1.60	1.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Nigeria	1.70	1.66	1.65	1.65	2.22	1.96	1.87	1.87	2.26	1.95	1.85	1.85	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-5.13
Other Foreign	106.77	107.80	107.23	107.26	4.05	4.14	4.18	4.20	276.14	285.37	286.56	287.95	1.39	0.49	2.59	0.91
China	30.75	31.41	31.40	31.40	6.02	6.21	6.23	6.30	129.65	136.57	137.00	138.50	1.50	1.09	1.93	1.41
India	42.30	42.70	42.20	42.20	2.82	2.83	2.90	2.90	79.62	80.54	81.50	81.50	0.00	0.00	0.96	1.19
Bangladesh	9.94	10.03	10.00	10.00	2.67	2.76	2.78	2.78	17.69	18.42	18.50	18.50	0.00	0.00	0.08	0.43
Japan	2.12	1.98	1.96	1.96	6.34	6.54	6.31	6.31	9.78	9.41	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	-0.41	-4.39
Brazil	3.88	3.57	3.55	3.55	2.59	2.73	2.69	2.69	6.83	6.63	6.50	6.50	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-1.93
Philippines	3.92	3.90	3.90	3.90	2.85	2.88	2.88	2.88	7.26	7.30	7.30	7.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Egypt	0.56	0.59	0.63	0.63	7.86	8.29	7.94	7.94	2.60	2.99	2.96	2.96	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-1.14
Taiwan	0.36	0.35	0.37	0.37	5.71	5.04	4.87	4.87	1.52	1.42	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.41
FSU-12	0.51	0.48	0.48	0.48	2.36	2.24	2.46	2.46	0.78	0.70	0.76	0.76	0.00	0.00	0.06	8.11
Russia	0.17	0.17	0.16	0.16	2.70	2.36	2.41	2.41	0.30	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-1.19
Australia	0.15	0.17	0.14	0.14	6.38	8.48	8.49	8.49	0.68	1.01	0.85	0.85	0.00	0.00	-0.16	-15.51
Others	12.28	12.62	12.61	12.64	2.95	3.02	3.06	3.03	19.73	20.38	20.75	20.65	-0.11	-0.51	0.27	1.33

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TABLE 11

Total Oilseed Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World Total 1/	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	258.89	259.27	279.46	280.94	1.47	0.53	21.67	8.36
Total Foreign 1/	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	189.80	184.44	194.76	196.38	1.62	0.83	11.93	6.47
Copra	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5.03	5.40	5.46	5.46	0.00	0.00	0.06	1.11
Palm Kernel	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.97	5.34	5.38	5.38	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.71
Major Oilseeds 2/	163.38	159.66	167.54	167.37	1.52	1.56	1.60	1.61	248.89	248.53	268.63	270.10	1.47	0.55	21.57	8.68
United States 2/	33.57	32.58	35.68	35.66	2.06	2.30	2.37	2.37	69.10	74.83	84.71	84.56	-0.15	-0.17	9.73	13.01
Foreign Oilseeds 2/	129.81	127.09	131.86	131.71	1.39	1.37	1.39	1.41	179.80	173.71	183.92	185.54	1.62	0.88	11.84	6.81
South America	24.98	25.25	27.71	27.85	1.94	1.95	2.04	2.07	48.34	49.19	56.41	57.57	1.15	2.05	8.37	17.02
Brazil	12.18	12.59	13.80	13.90	2.05	2.19	2.16	2.22	24.96	27.62	29.79	30.79	1.00	3.36	3.16	11.46
Argentina	10.38	10.26	11.19	11.25	1.85	1.68	1.94	1.95	19.24	17.26	21.73	21.90	0.17	0.81	4.64	26.88
Paraguay	1.45	1.35	1.62	1.62	1.81	2.02	1.87	1.87	2.63	2.72	3.02	3.02	0.00	0.00	0.31	11.22
China	25.08	23.23	23.80	23.80	1.73	1.78	1.66	1.68	43.33	41.45	39.40	40.09	0.69	1.75	-1.35	-3.27
India	30.25	30.97	31.30	31.30	0.83	0.84	0.85	0.85	25.13	25.98	26.54	26.50	-0.04	-0.15	0.52	2.00
European Union	5.97	5.83	5.92	5.93	2.20	2.19	2.44	2.45	13.14	12.78	14.44	14.51	0.07	0.48	1.73	13.54
France	1.92	1.87	1.97	1.97	2.53	2.74	2.94	2.94	4.86	5.11	5.78	5.78	0.00	0.00	0.67	13.11
Italy	0.47	0.58	0.61	0.61	2.60	2.57	2.80	2.80	1.22	1.49	1.71	1.71	0.00	0.00	0.22	14.68
Germany	1.03	0.90	0.94	0.94	3.15	2.31	3.09	3.09	3.24	2.08	2.90	2.90	0.00	0.00	0.82	39.32
Spain	1.09	1.17	1.12	1.13	0.62	1.17	1.02	1.04	0.68	1.38	1.14	1.17	0.03	2.64	-0.21	-15.18
United Kingdom	0.44	0.41	0.44	0.44	3.03	3.42	3.39	3.39	1.33	1.41	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.09	6.38
FSU-12	10.09	9.99	9.66	9.66	1.12	0.86	0.92	0.92	11.28	8.55	8.90	8.90	0.00	0.00	0.35	4.08
Russia	4.86	4.65	4.17	4.17	0.95	0.69	0.70	0.70	4.62	3.19	2.94	2.94	0.00	0.00	-0.26	-8.05
Ukraine	2.04	2.15	2.24	2.24	1.42	0.99	1.04	1.04	2.90	2.13	2.33	2.33	0.00	0.00	0.20	9.38
Uzbekistan	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.47	1.38	1.57	1.57	2.20	2.07	2.35	2.35	0.00	0.00	0.28	13.53
Turkmenistan	0.45	0.45	0.55	0.55	1.22	0.58	0.73	0.73	0.55	0.26	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.14	53.85
Canada	6.14	4.35	5.90	5.90	1.43	1.68	1.52	1.52	8.80	7.28	8.97	8.97	0.00	0.00	1.68	23.09
Indonesia	1.99	1.94	1.88	1.88	1.30	1.30	1.31	1.31	2.58	2.52	2.46	2.46	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-2.42
Pakistan	3.53	3.72	3.74	3.44	1.14	0.98	1.04	1.03	4.01	3.66	3.90	3.55	-0.35	-8.98	-0.11	-3.01
Eastern Europe	3.11	3.02	2.76	2.78	1.71	1.53	1.57	1.57	5.32	4.62	4.32	4.37	0.05	1.16	-0.24	-5.27
Poland	0.61	0.28	0.30	0.32	2.27	1.59	1.80	1.84	1.38	0.45	0.54	0.59	0.05	9.26	0.14	31.40
Romania	0.79	0.99	0.83	0.83	1.32	1.31	1.23	1.23	1.04	1.30	1.02	1.02	0.00	0.00	-0.28	-21.22
Hungary	0.53	0.57	0.51	0.51	1.48	1.67	1.66	1.66	0.79	0.95	0.85	0.85	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-10.34
Turkey	1.45	1.36	1.32	1.28	1.48	1.32	1.43	1.48	2.16	1.79	1.89	1.89	0.00	0.00	0.10	5.30
Phillppines	0.06	0.05	0.06	0.06	0.83	0.87	0.91	0.91	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	13.04
Mexico	0.52	0.38	0.42	0.42	1.33	1.56	1.56	1.56	0.69	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.00	0.00	0.05	8.88
Others	16.63	17.01	17.42	17.43	0.90	0.90	0.92	0.92	14.99	15.25	16.00	16.05	0.04	0.28	0.80	5.24

1/ Major oilseeds plus copra and palm kernel. 2/ Individual countries and regions include soybean, cottonseed, peanut (inshell), sunflowerseed, and rapeseed.

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 12

Soybean Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	61.70	63.22	69.02	69.15	2.03	2.08	2.17	2.18	124.96	131.67	149.56	150.62	1.06	0.71	18.95	14.40
United States	24.94	25.66	28.25	28.28	2.38	2.53	2.64	2.62	59.24	64.84	74.47	74.22	-0.24	-0.32	9.39	14.48
Total Foreign	36.76	37.56	40.76	40.86	1.79	1.78	1.84	1.87	65.72	66.83	75.10	76.40	1.30	1.73	9.57	14.32
Major Exporters	18.03	19.20	20.70	20.80	2.16	2.13	2.24	2.27	38.98	40.80	46.30	47.30	1.00	2.16	6.50	15.93
Brazil	10.95	11.80	12.80	12.90	2.21	2.29	2.27	2.33	24.15	27.00	29.00	30.00	1.00	3.45	3.00	11.11
Argentina	5.98	6.20	6.60	6.60	2.08	1.81	2.20	2.20	12.43	11.20	14.50	14.50	0.00	0.00	3.30	29.46
Paraguay	1.10	1.20	1.30	1.30	2.18	2.17	2.15	2.15	2.40	2.60	2.80	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.20	7.69
Other Foreign	18.73	18.36	20.06	20.06	1.43	1.42	1.44	1.45	26.74	26.03	28.80	29.10	0.30	1.04	3.07	11.79
China	8.13	7.47	8.20	8.20	1.66	1.77	1.65	1.68	13.50	13.22	13.50	13.80	0.30	2.22	0.58	4.39
India	4.82	5.00	5.60	5.60	0.93	0.82	0.96	0.96	4.48	4.10	5.35	5.35	0.00	0.00	1.25	30.49
Canada	0.82	0.86	1.05	1.05	2.78	2.52	2.57	2.57	2.29	2.17	2.70	2.70	0.00	0.00	0.54	24.71
Indonesia	1.28	1.26	1.20	1.20	1.19	1.20	1.21	1.21	1.52	1.51	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-3.97
Eastern Europe	0.17	0.20	0.17	0.17	1.73	1.71	1.96	1.96	0.29	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.87
European Union	0.29	0.34	0.43	0.43	3.23	3.44	3.37	3.37	0.94	1.15	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00	0.29	25.07
FSU-12	0.55	0.55	0.45	0.45	0.66	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.36	0.34	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-18.18
Russia	0.49	0.49	0.39	0.39	0.60	0.58	0.56	0.56	0.29	0.28	0.22	0.22	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-21.99
Ukraine	0.02	0.03	0.03	0.03	1.30	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.03	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mexico	0.13	0.06	0.14	0.14	1.43	1.00	1.43	1.43	0.19	0.06	0.20	0.20	0.00	0.00	0.14	233.33
Thailand	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	1.30	1.26	1.29	1.29	0.37	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
North Korea	0.34	0.30	0.30	0.30	1.21	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.41	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Japan	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1.72	1.71	1.71	1.71	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Bolivia	0.45	0.55	0.63	0.63	2.02	1.83	2.00	2.00	0.90	1.00	1.26	1.26	0.00	0.00	0.26	26.00
South Korea	0.11	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.52	1.60	1.26	1.26	0.16	0.16	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-25.00
Colombia	0.03	0.04	0.04	0.04	2.14	2.00	2.00	2.00	0.06	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.01	14.29
Others	1.28	1.29	1.41	1.41	0.91	0.87	0.92	0.92	1.16	1.13	1.30	1.30	-0.00	-0.00	0.17	14.98

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 13

Cottonseed Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	35.89	33.82	33.97	33.57	1.00	1.02	1.03	1.05	35.93	34.35	35.05	35.15	0.11	0.31	0.80	2.34
United States	6.48	5.21	5.44	5.38	0.96	1.24	1.20	1.23	6.21	6.48	6.55	6.60	0.05	0.84	0.12	1.88
Total Foreign	29.41	28.61	28.53	28.19	1.01	0.97	1.00	1.01	29.72	27.87	28.50	28.55	0.05	0.19	0.68	2.44
China	5.42	4.72	4.50	4.50	1.58	1.60	1.61	1.70	8.58	7.56	7.25	7.64	0.39	5.38	0.08	1.06
FSU-12	2.57	2.55	2.61	2.61	1.28	1.09	1.21	1.21	3.30	2.78	3.16	3.16	0.00	0.00	0.37	13.37
Uzbekistan	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.47	1.38	1.57	1.57	2.20	2.07	2.35	2.35	0.00	0.00	0.28	13.53
Turkmenistan	0.45	0.45	0.55	0.55	1.22	0.58	0.73	0.73	0.55	0.26	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.14	53.85
India	9.06	9.17	9.00	9.00	0.62	0.64	0.61	0.61	5.65	5.88	5.49	5.45	-0.04	-0.73	-0.43	-7.31
Pakistan	3.05	3.20	3.20	2.90	1.17	0.99	1.06	1.05	3.57	3.18	3.40	3.05	-0.35	-10.29	-0.13	-4.06
Brazil	1.13	0.70	0.90	0.90	0.58	0.67	0.70	0.70	0.66	0.47	0.63	0.63	0.00	0.00	0.17	35.48
Turkey	0.76	0.74	0.74	0.70	1.68	1.48	1.41	1.50	1.28	1.10	1.05	1.05	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-4.55
African Franc Zone	1.61	1.91	2.00	2.00	0.74	0.72	0.76	0.76	1.19	1.37	1.52	1.52	0.00	0.00	0.15	11.21
Australia	0.30	0.40	0.43	0.43	1.98	2.13	2.05	2.05	0.60	0.84	0.88	0.88	0.00	0.00	0.04	5.12
Egypt	0.31	0.39	0.36	0.36	1.27	1.45	1.42	1.42	0.39	0.56	0.51	0.51	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-9.41
Argentina	0.96	0.88	1.00	1.00	0.78	0.64	0.80	0.80	0.74	0.56	0.80	0.80	0.00	0.00	0.24	42.86
Paraguay	0.31	0.11	0.28	0.28	0.60	0.71	0.65	0.65	0.19	0.08	0.18	0.18	0.00	0.00	0.11	140.00
Greece	0.44	0.42	0.39	0.39	1.52	1.13	1.49	1.49	0.67	0.48	0.58	0.58	0.00	0.00	0.11	22.11
Syria	0.20	0.22	0.24	0.25	2.28	2.39	2.81	2.82	0.45	0.53	0.66	0.71	0.04	6.82	0.18	34.29
Mexico	0.32	0.25	0.20	0.20	1.31	1.86	1.85	1.85	0.42	0.46	0.37	0.37	0.00	0.00	-0.09	-19.21
Colombia	0.11	0.09	0.07	0.07	1.25	1.24	1.23	1.23	0.14	0.11	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	-0.03	-26.61
Sudan	0.22	0.28	0.27	0.27	1.13	0.82	0.79	0.79	0.25	0.23	0.21	0.21	0.00	0.00	-0.02	-8.70
Others	11.70	11.78	11.36	11.35	0.63	0.64	0.64	0.63	7.32	7.58	7.22	7.19	-0.03	-0.43	-0.39	-5.18

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 14

Peanut Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	20.92	21.15	21.16	21.23	1.32	1.33	1.23	1.23	27.63	28.18	26.01	26.21	0.20	0.75	-1.97	-6.98
United States	0.61	0.56	0.56	0.57	2.56	2.98	2.84	2.83	1.57	1.66	1.59	1.61	0.02	1.32	-0.05	-3.13
Total Foreign	20.31	20.60	20.60	20.66	1.28	1.29	1.19	1.19	26.06	26.52	24.42	24.60	0.18	0.72	-1.92	-7.23
China	3.81	3.62	3.60	3.60	2.68	2.80	2.22	2.22	10.20	10.14	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	-2.14	-21.10
India	7.80	8.20	8.10	8.10	0.95	1.00	0.99	0.99	7.40	8.20	8.00	8.00	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-2.44
Indonesia	0.69	0.66	0.66	0.66	1.53	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.06	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Senegal	0.88	0.92	0.83	0.83	0.94	0.65	0.87	0.87	0.83	0.60	0.72	0.72	0.00	0.00	0.12	20.00
Burma	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sudan	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Zaire	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Argentina	0.24	0.28	0.29	0.35	1.93	1.09	1.49	1.71	0.46	0.30	0.43	0.60	0.18	41.18	0.30	100.00
Nigeria	1.77	1.83	2.00	2.00	0.89	0.94	0.88	0.88	1.58	1.72	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.03	1.57
Vietnam	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	1.28	1.31	1.31	1.31	0.33	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
South Africa	0.14	0.10	0.12	0.12	1.43	1.47	1.48	1.48	0.19	0.14	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.03	21.43
Thailand	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1.31	1.31	1.31	1.31	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Burkina Faso	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Brazil	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	1.67	1.67	1.67	1.67	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Central African Rep.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cameroon	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.44	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Cote d'Ivoire	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mexico	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	1.26	1.06	1.07	1.07	0.08	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.35
Gambia	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	1.22	1.21	1.21	1.21	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	1.97	1.99	1.99	1.99	0.82	0.85	0.82	0.82	1.62	1.69	1.63	1.63	0.00	0.00	-0.05	-3.20

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Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 15

Sunflowerseed Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	20.73	19.94	20.01	20.03	1.24	1.19	1.21	1.21	25.76	23.71	24.25	24.26	0.01	0.03	0.55	2.32
United States	1.36	1.01	1.14	1.15	1.33	1.61	1.50	1.48	1.82	1.63	1.70	1.71	0.01	0.47	0.08	4.92
Total Foreign	19.37	18.93	18.88	18.88	1.24	1.17	1.19	1.19	23.94	22.08	22.55	22.55	0.00	0.00	0.47	2.13
FSU-12	6.56	6.59	6.27	6.27	1.13	0.79	0.83	0.83	7.38	5.21	5.23	5.23	0.00	0.00	0.02	0.38
Russia	4.10	4.00	3.60	3.60	1.02	0.70	0.72	0.72	4.20	2.80	2.60	2.60	0.00	0.00	-0.20	-7.14
Ukraine	2.00	2.11	2.20	2.20	1.43	0.99	1.05	1.05	2.85	2.10	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.20	9.52
Argentina	3.20	2.90	3.30	3.30	1.75	1.79	1.82	1.82	5.60	5.20	6.00	6.00	0.00	0.00	0.80	15.38
European Union	2.39	2.35	2.28	2.28	1.34	1.66	1.63	1.63	3.21	3.90	3.72	3.72	0.00	0.00	-0.17	-4.41
France	0.98	0.92	0.90	0.90	1.95	2.19	2.35	2.35	1.90	2.00	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.10	5.00
Spain	0.98	0.99	0.96	0.96	0.59	1.15	0.94	0.94	0.58	1.14	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	-0.24	-21.05
Italy	0.25	0.26	0.26	0.26	2.00	2.01	2.00	2.00	0.50	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.57
Eastern Europe	1.95	2.13	1.86	1.86	1.42	1.42	1.40	1.40	2.76	3.02	2.60	2.60	0.00	0.00	-0.42	-13.78
Hungary	0.49	0.48	0.42	0.42	1.49	1.68	1.67	1.67	0.73	0.80	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-12.50
Romania	0.72	0.91	0.77	0.77	1.30	1.30	1.17	1.17	0.93	1.18	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	-0.28	-23.73
Yugoslavia	0.19	0.22	0.18	0.18	1.76	1.87	2.08	2.08	0.33	0.42	0.38	0.38	0.00	0.00	-0.04	-10.50
Bulgaria	0.49	0.45	0.42	0.42	1.33	1.09	1.17	1.17	0.65	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Czech Rep.	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1.79	1.95	2.24	2.24	0.03	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.00	0.00	0.01	20.51
China	0.81	0.69	0.80	0.80	1.56	1.92	1.56	1.56	1.27	1.33	1.25	1.25	0.00	0.00	-0.08	-5.66
India	2.17	2.20	2.20	2.20	0.65	0.68	0.68	0.68	1.40	1.50	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Turkey	0.63	0.55	0.50	0.50	1.20	1.04	1.40	1.40	0.75	0.57	0.70	0.70	0.00	0.00	0.13	22.81
South Africa	0.61	0.46	0.55	0.55	1.24	0.97	1.09	1.09	0.76	0.45	0.60	0.60	0.00	0.00	0.15	33.33
Australia	0.07	0.13	0.13	0.13	1.19	1.23	1.23	1.23	0.09	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Burma	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.83	0.79	0.84	0.84	0.74	0.81	0.81	0.81	0.62	0.64	0.68	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.03	5.30

January 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 16

Rapeseed Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Metric tons per hectare				Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
World	24.14	21.52	23.39	23.40	1.43	1.42	1.44	1.45	34.61	30.63	33.76	33.86	0.10	0.30	3.23	10.55
United States	0.18	0.14	0.29	0.28	1.43	1.55	1.40	1.47	0.25	0.22	0.41	0.42	0.01	2.46	0.20	89.95
Total Foreign	23.96	21.38	23.10	23.12	1.43	1.42	1.44	1.45	34.36	30.41	33.35	33.44	0.09	0.27	3.03	9.97
India	6.40	6.40	6.40	6.40	0.97	0.98	0.97	0.97	6.20	6.30	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.00	-0.10	-1.59
China	6.91	6.73	6.70	6.70	1.42	1.37	1.40	1.40	9.78	9.20	9.40	9.40	0.00	0.00	0.20	2.17
Canada	5.27	3.45	4.80	4.80	1.22	1.47	1.29	1.29	6.44	5.06	6.20	6.20	0.00	0.00	1.14	22.48
European Union	2.82	2.64	2.72	2.72	2.93	2.70	3.14	3.16	8.27	7.14	8.54	8.58	0.04	0.47	1.44	20.22
France	0.85	0.87	0.97	0.97	3.20	3.32	3.51	3.51	2.70	2.87	3.40	3.40	0.00	0.00	0.53	18.47
Germany	0.97	0.85	0.90	0.90	3.21	2.31	3.11	3.11	3.13	1.97	2.80	2.80	0.00	0.00	0.83	42.13
United Kingdom	0.44	0.41	0.44	0.44	3.03	3.42	3.39	3.39	1.33	1.41	1.50	1.50	0.00	0.00	0.09	6.38
Denmark	0.15	0.11	0.11	0.11	2.05	2.38	2.38	2.76	0.31	0.25	0.25	0.29	0.04	16.00	0.04	16.00
Sweden	0.11	0.06	0.07	0.07	2.05	2.10	2.00	2.00	0.22	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-1.52
Eastern Europe	0.97	0.68	0.71	0.73	2.32	1.84	1.94	1.95	2.26	1.25	1.37	1.42	0.05	3.64	0.18	14.11
Poland	0.61	0.28	0.30	0.32	2.27	1.59	1.80	1.84	1.38	0.45	0.54	0.59	0.05	9.26	0.14	31.40
Czech Rep.	0.25	0.23	0.24	0.24	2.63	2.30	2.29	2.29	0.66	0.52	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.03	5.57
Australia	0.41	0.38	0.65	0.65	1.38	1.63	1.18	1.18	0.56	0.62	0.77	0.77	0.00	0.00	0.15	24.19
FSU-12	0.42	0.31	0.33	0.33	0.56	0.70	0.72	0.72	0.23	0.21	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.02	8.88
Russia	0.28	0.17	0.18	0.18	0.45	0.66	0.66	0.66	0.13	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.01	4.55
Pakistan	0.32	0.34	0.35	0.35	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.26	0.27	0.28	0.28	0.00	0.00	0.01	2.94
Bangladesh	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.11	1.13	1.12	1.12	1.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	-0.00	-0.83

January 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 17

Copra, Palm Kernel, and Palm Oil Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Production				Change in Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million metric tons				MMT	Percent	MMT	Percent
COPRA								
World	5.03	5.40	5.46	5.46	0.00	0.00	0.06	1.11
Philippines	1.97	2.30	2.30	2.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Indonesia	1.46	1.46	1.48	1.48	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.37
India	0.61	0.64	0.68	0.68	0.00	0.00	0.04	6.25
Mexico	0.22	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Sri Lanka	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vietnam	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Malaysia	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.55	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PALM KERNEL								
World	4.97	5.34	5.38	5.38	0.00	0.04	0.04	0.71
Malaysia	2.48	2.70	2.63	2.63	0.00	0.08	-0.07	-2.59
Indonesia	1.40	1.55	1.65	1.65	0.00	0.00	0.10	6.45
Nigeria	0.27	0.26	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-3.85
Cote d'Ivoire	0.06	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	3.08
Colombia	0.07	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.32
Thailand	0.09	0.09	0.11	0.11	0.00	0.00	0.01	14.13
Zaire	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecuador	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.38
PALM OIL								
World	16.07	17.28	17.66	17.66	0.00	0.00	0.38	2.20
Malaysia	8.26	9.00	9.00	9.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.02
Indonesia	4.75	5.10	5.40	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.30	5.88
Nigeria	0.59	0.60	0.59	0.59	0.00	0.00	-0.01	-1.67
Cote d'Ivoire	0.30	0.31	0.32	0.32	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.23
Colombia	0.39	0.40	0.42	0.42	0.00	0.00	0.01	3.23
Thailand	0.37	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.00	0.00	0.05	12.50
Zaire	0.11	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ecuador	0.22	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Others	1.08	1.11	1.12	1.12	0.00	0.00	0.02	1.35

January 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 18

Cotton Area, Yield, and Production

World and Selected Countries and Regions

Country/Region	Area				Yield				Production				Change In Production			
		Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.			Prel.	1997/98 Proj.					
	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	1995/96	1996/97	Dec.	Jan.	From last month		From last year	
	Million hectares				Kilograms per hectare				Million 480 lb. bales				MBales	Percent	MBales	Percent
World	35.93	33.87	33.98	33.62	564	574	577	589	93.03	89.25	90.11	90.88	0.77	0.85	1.63	1.83
United States	6.48	5.21	5.44	5.38	602	792	753	769	17.90	18.94	18.82	18.98	0.16	0.84	0.03	0.18
Total Foreign	29.46	28.66	28.54	28.24	555	534	544	554	75.13	70.31	71.29	71.90	0.61	0.86	1.60	2.27
Major Exporters	16.64	15.86	16.24	15.94	696	661	668	688	53.19	48.18	49.84	50.34	0.50	1.00	2.16	4.49
China	5.42	4.72	4.50	4.50	879	890	895	943	21.90	19.30	18.50	19.50	1.00	5.41	0.20	1.04
Pakistan	3.05	3.20	3.20	2.90	586	497	510	526	8.20	7.30	7.50	7.00	-0.50	-6.67	-0.30	-4.11
Sudan	0.22	0.28	0.27	0.27	485	358	329	329	0.49	0.46	0.40	0.40	0.00	0.00	-0.06	-13.04
Turkey	0.76	0.74	0.70	0.70	1,125	1,054	1,026	1,026	3.91	3.60	3.30	3.30	0.00	0.00	-0.30	-8.33
FSU-12	2.57	2.55	2.61	2.61	699	556	611	611	8.26	6.50	7.32	7.32	0.00	0.00	0.82	12.54
Uzbekistan	1.50	1.50	1.50	1.50	833	689	784	784	5.74	4.75	5.40	5.40	0.00	0.00	0.65	13.68
Turkmenistan	0.45	0.45	0.55	0.55	556	290	356	356	1.15	0.60	0.90	0.90	0.00	0.00	0.30	50.00
Other	0.62	0.60	0.56	0.56	479	421	398	398	1.37	1.15	1.02	1.02	0.00	0.00	-0.13	-11.74
Egypt	0.31	0.39	0.36	0.36	774	882	877	877	1.09	1.57	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	-0.12	-7.53
African Franc Zone	1.61	1.91	2.00	2.00	424	418	445	445	3.14	3.66	4.10	4.10	0.00	0.00	0.44	11.99
Southern Hemisphere	2.70	2.08	2.61	2.61	499	607	608	608	6.20	5.79	7.28	7.28	0.00	0.00	1.49	25.69
Argentina	0.96	0.88	1.00	1.00	437	369	457	457	1.93	1.49	2.10	2.10	0.00	0.00	0.61	40.66
Australia	0.30	0.40	0.43	0.43	1,425	1,537	1,468	1,468	1.97	2.79	2.90	2.90	0.00	0.00	0.11	4.02
Brazil	1.13	0.70	0.90	0.90	345	407	423	423	1.79	1.30	1.75	1.75	0.00	0.00	0.45	34.62
Paraguay	0.31	0.11	0.28	0.28	355	429	416	416	0.51	0.21	0.53	0.53	0.00	0.00	0.32	153.62
Major Importers	0.54	0.55	0.54	0.55	939	745	873	885	2.32	1.88	2.18	2.25	0.07	3.21	0.37	19.67
Other Foreign	12.28	12.25	11.75	11.75	348	360	357	358	19.62	20.25	19.27	19.31	0.04	0.21	-0.94	-4.63
India	9.06	9.17	9.00	9.00	318	327	310	310	13.25	13.78	12.80	12.80	0.00	0.00	-0.98	-7.12
Others	3.22	3.09	2.75	2.75	432	456	512	516	6.37	6.47	6.47	6.51	0.04	0.62	0.04	0.68

January 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

TABLE 19

The table below presents a 16-year record of the difference between the January projections and the final estimates. Using world wheat production as an example, changes between the January projection and the final estimate have averaged 3.6 million tons (0.7 percent) and ranged from -8.3 to 6.4 million tons. The January projection has been below the final 10 times and above the final 6 times.

RELIABILITY OF PRODUCTION PROJECTIONS

COMMODITY AND REGION	PROJECTION AND FINAL ESTIMATES, 1981/82 - 1996/97 1/					
	Difference		Lowest	Highest	Below	Above
	Average	Average	Difference		Final	Final
	Percent	---Million metric tons---			Number of years 2/	
WHEAT						
World	0.7	3.6	-8.3	6.4	10	6
U.S.	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	8	3
Foreign	0.8	3.6	-8.3	6.4	10	6
COARSE GRAINS 3/						
World	0.9	7.4	-17.9	8.2	9	7
U.S.	0.3	0.6	-4.6	1.3	10	3
Foreign	1.2	7.0	-17.3	8.2	9	7
RICE (Milled)						
World	1.5	4.9	-12.6	1.8	14	2
U.S.	1.3	0.1	-0.3	0.2	6	1
Foreign	1.5	4.9	-12.6	1.8	14	2
SOYBEANS						
World	1.6	1.7	-4.5	2.9	9	7
U.S.	1.3	0.7	-1.6	1.8	7	7
Foreign	3.3	1.6	-3.4	2.6	10	6
		---Million 480-lb. bales---				
COTTON						
World	2.3	1.9	-5.4	3.6	10	5
U.S.	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.3	3	12
Foreign	2.9	2.0	-5.7	3.5	10	5
UNITED STATES		*-------Million bushels-------*				
CORN	0.3	21	-148	38	4	1
SORGHUM	0.5	5	-53	14	1	3
BARLEY	0.4	2	-3	11	8	2
OATS	0.1	0	-2	1	3	1

1/ The final estimate for 1981/82-1996/97 is defined as the first November estimate following the marketing year.

2/ May not total 16 if projection was the same as the final.

3/ Includes corn, sorghum, barley, oats, rye, millet, and mixed grain.

January 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division, FAS, USDA

MAP 1

WORLD AGRICULTURAL WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

January 13, 1998

1 - UNITED STATES
Unseasonably mild December weather in the northern Plains gave way to a bitter cold Arctic outbreak in early January. A shallow snow cover existed in the winter wheat areas of Montana. Pacific storms hit the West Coast and tracked into the southern Plains, with Gulf moisture fueling abundant rainfall across the South. A severe ice storm ocurred in the far Northeast in early January.

2 - SOUTH AMERICA
In December and early January, cool, wet weather provided ideal conditions for Argentine soybeans and corn. In southern Brazil, above normal December rainfail favored soybeans in Rio Grande do Sul, while near normal rainfall prevailed elsewhere. Rain is needed to alleviate developing dryness in Mato Grosso do Sul.

3 - EUROPE
Near- to above-normal precipitation fell in most areas in December, increasing moisture reserves. Continued wet weather in Portugal and Spain caused additional flooding and delayed fieldwork. Bitterly cold weather prevailed over winter grain areas in eastern Europe from December 16-18, 1997. Extreme cold was of short duration and was preceded by snow, minimizing the threat for widespread damage.

4 - FSU-WESTERN
A period of bitterly cold weather from December 15-18, 1997 covered most winter grain areas. A thin or patchy snow cover existed in southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus region in Russia, leaving winter grains vulnerable to potential freeze damage. Since December 19, mild weather improved overwintering conditions.

USDA/OCE - World Agricultural Outlook Board
Joint Agricultural Weather Facility

5 - NORTHWESTERN AFRICA
Periodic showers provided above-normal rainfall in December in Morocco, eastern Algeria, and northern Tunisia, favoring winter grain emergence and establishment. Beneficial rain fell in western and central Algeria.

6 - SOUTH AFRICA
Widespread, locally heavy rain since late December has been highly beneficial for vegetative to reproductive corn. The rain was especially welcomed in drought-stricken sections of the west, in some instances providing the first significant rains of the planting season.

7 - SOUTH ASIA
Seasonable dryness since mid-December has promoted summer crop harvesting. Until recently, however, below-normal temperatures slowed drying of unfavorably wet summer crops such as cotton and hampered early growth of winter grains and oilseeds.

8 - EASTERN ASIA
Winter wheat remained dormant across the North China Plain as near normal December rainfall increased soil moisture supplies. Much above normal December rainfall favored winter grains and oilseeds in the Yangtze Valley

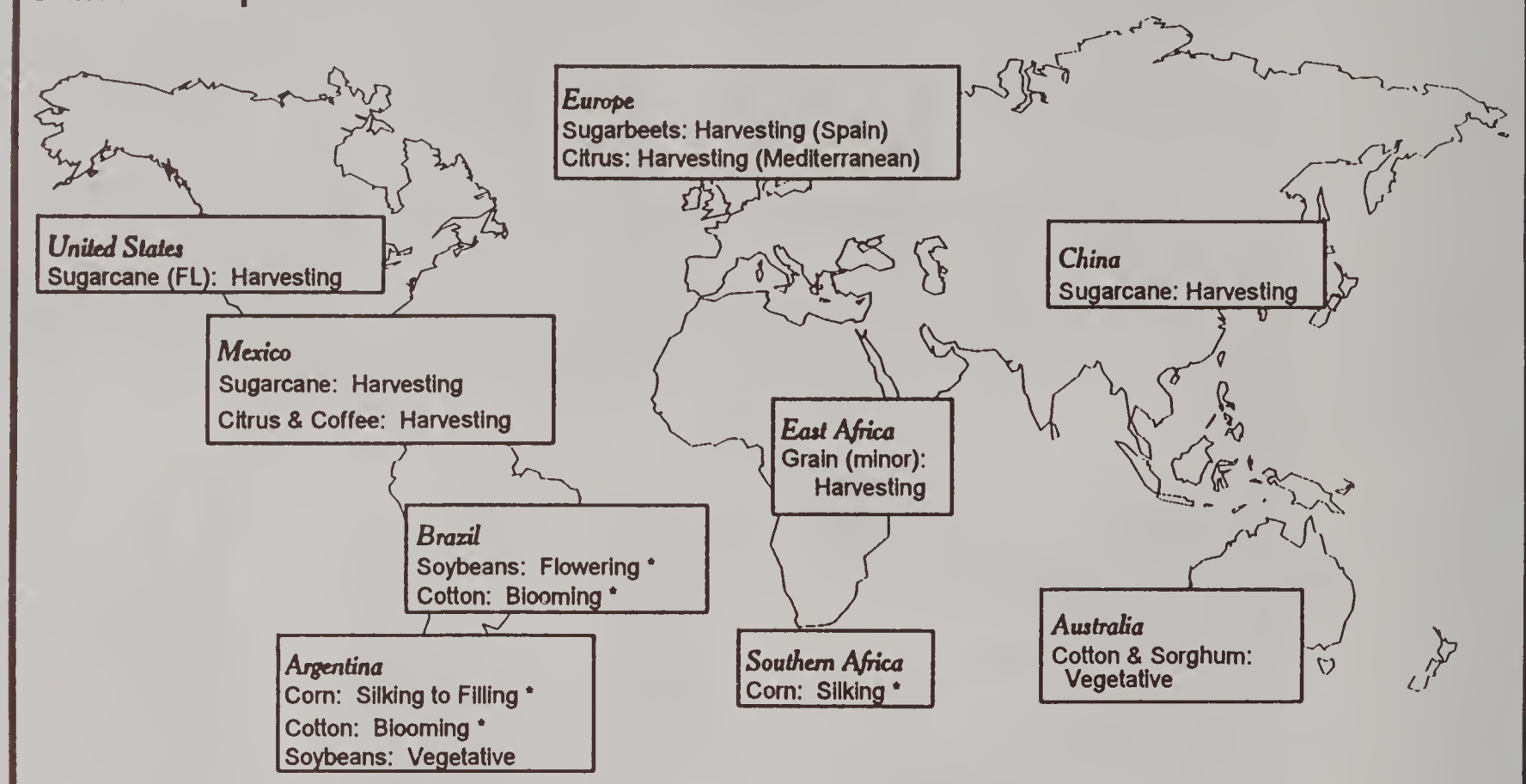
9 - SOUTHEAST ASIA
Across southern Sumatra and Java, near to slightly below normal December rainfall aided main-season rice. Drought worsened across the northern and western Philippines. Above normal December rainfall favored oil palm across the Malay Peninsula.

10 - AUSTRALIA
Shower activity tapered off in late December across the main sorghum and cotton areas but increased during the second week of January. During the dry spell, periods of unseasonable warmth kept crop moisture demands high. Northern sugarcane areas have experienced locally heavy tropical showers, but the drying trend continues far south.

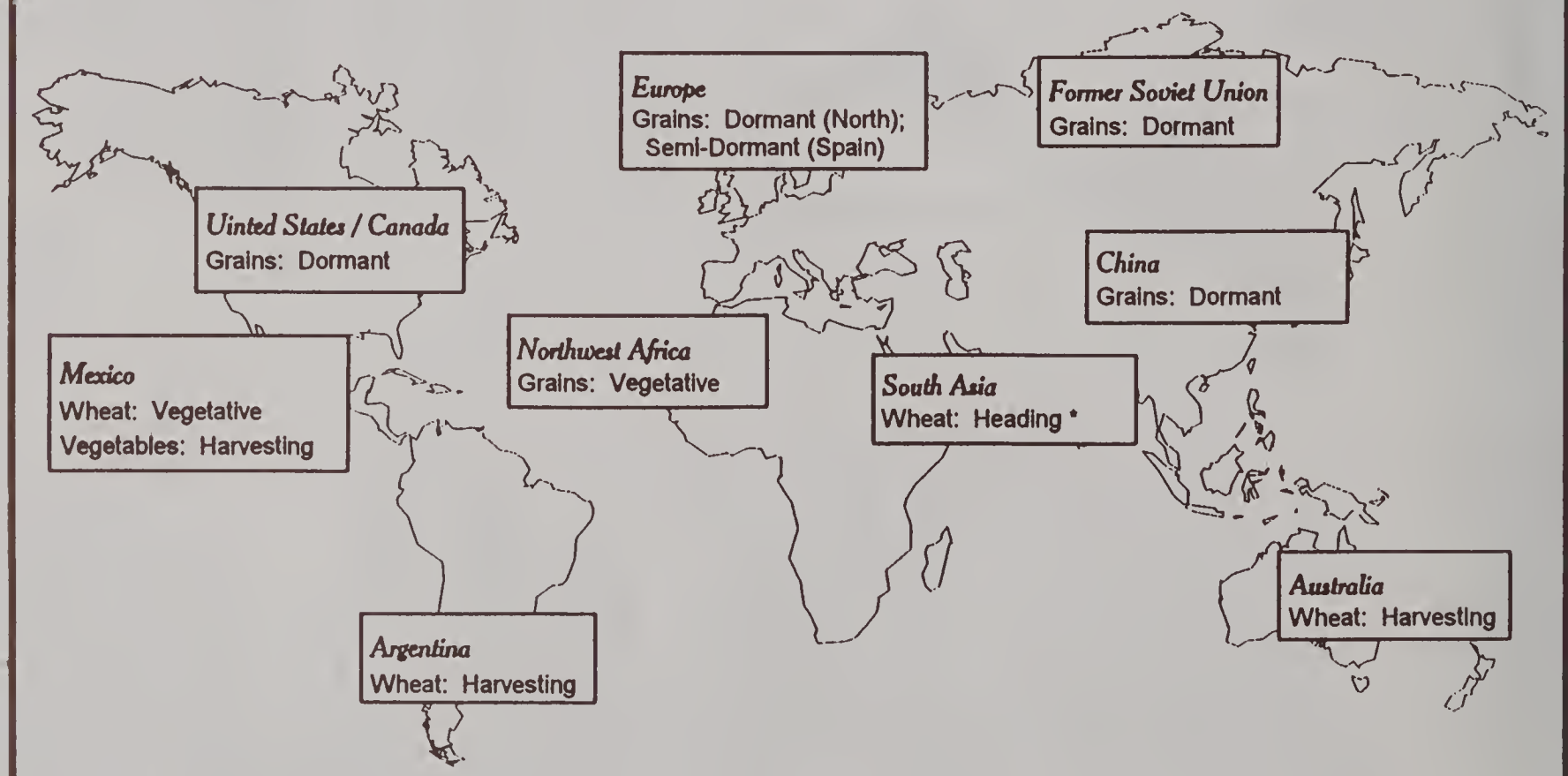
(More details are available in the Weekly Weather and Crop Bulletin. Subscription information may be obtained by calling (202) 720-7917.)

January normal crop calendar

Summer crops



Winter crops

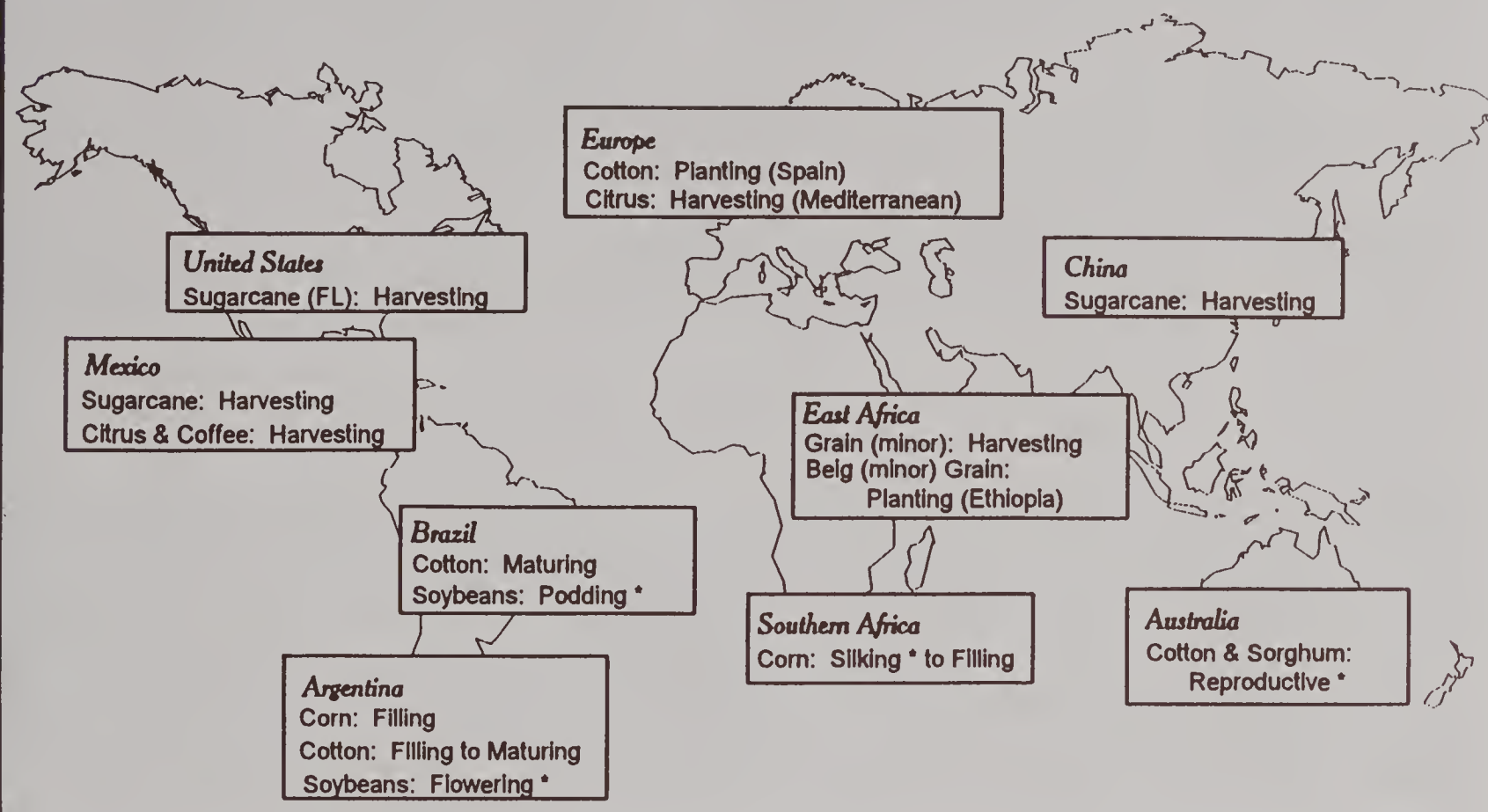


* Moisture / Temperature Sensitive Stage of Development

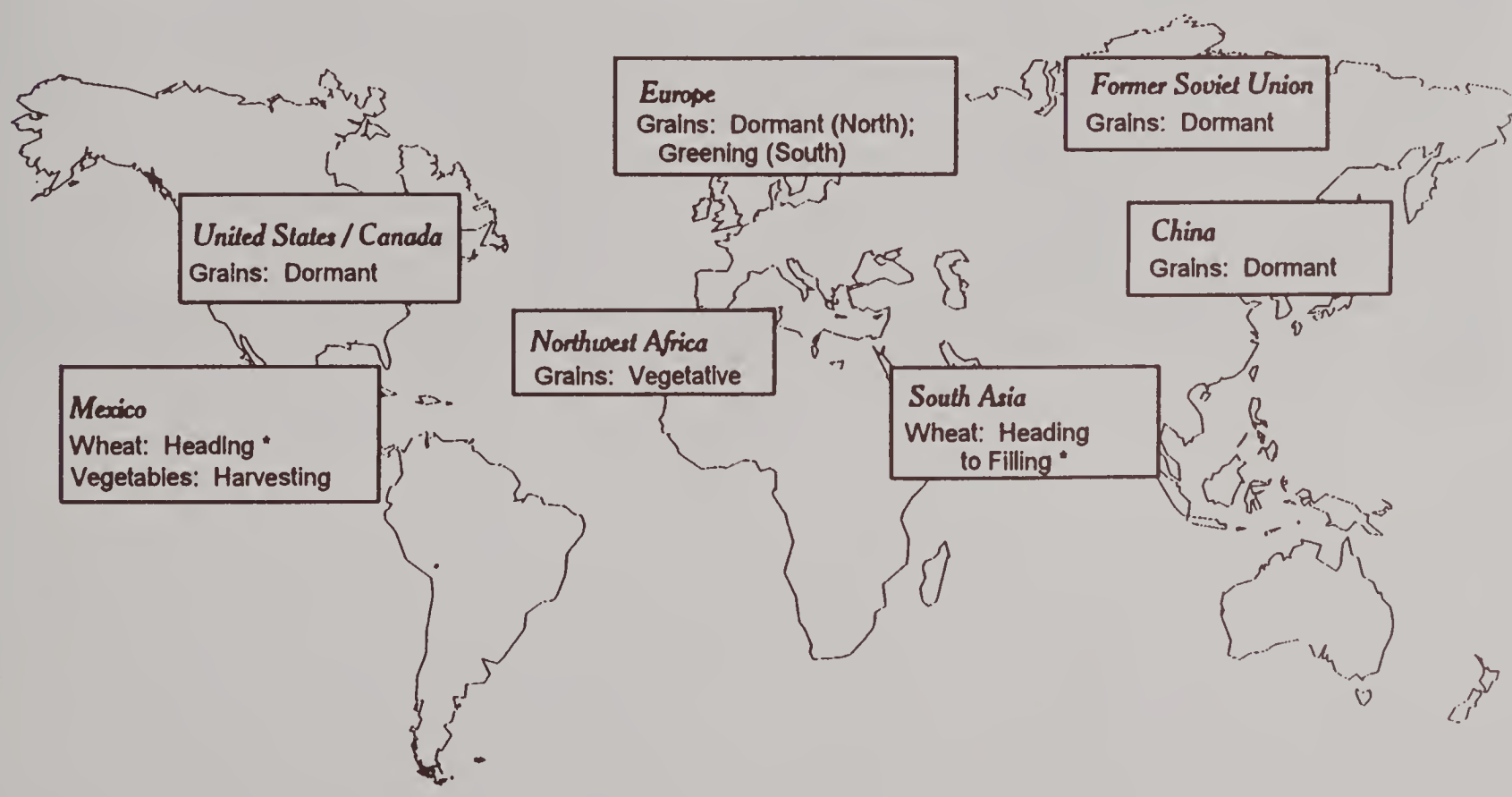
JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY (NOAA/USDA)

February normal crop calendar

Summer crops



Winter crops



* Moisture / Temperature Sensitive Stage of Development

JOINT AGRICULTURAL WEATHER FACILITY (NOAA/USDA)

EASTERN EUROPE: MOSTLY MILD WEATHER IN WINTER GRAIN AREAS

During November 1997, above-normal precipitation fell in eastern Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, while below-normal rainfall in Hungary continued to limit moisture for winter grain development. During the first week of December 1997, seasonable temperatures and light precipitation favored dormant winter grains in Poland, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia. Farther south, unseasonably mild weather accompanied widespread precipitation in Yugoslavia and Bulgaria, allowing further establishment in late-planted winter grains. During December 14 - 20, bitterly cold weather from the former Soviet Union pushed westward into Europe, threatening winter grains. Extreme minimum temperatures ranged from -15 to -19 degrees Celsius © in most of Poland and a small area in southeastern Romania, and Bulgaria. Temperatures below -19 degrees © were restricted to extreme eastern Poland and a small area in southeastern Romania and northern Bulgaria. While temperatures in these areas approached the threshold for potential winter kill, extreme cold was of short duration and was preceded by snow, minimizing the threat for widespread damage. Elsewhere, extreme minimum temperatures in eastern Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, western Romania, and Yugoslavia ranged from -6 to -15 degrees ©, remaining above the threshold for damage. During December 21 - 27, a strong westerly flow of maritime air spread eastward across Europe, and brought warmer weather and widespread precipitation. The mild weather in eastern Europe improved overwintering conditions for winter grains following the prior week's bitter cold. By the end of the week most winter grain areas in eastern Europe lacked protective snow cover. During the last days of December and the first week of January 1998, warm maritime air continued to spread across Europe. In eastern Europe, unseasonably mild weather was accompanied by generally light precipitation. The greatest amounts of precipitation fell as rain in southeastern Hungary, northwestern Yugoslavia, and western Romania, boosting soil moisture. Weekly temperatures in eastern Europe ranged from 4 to 7 degrees © above normal. Winter grain areas over most of Europe lacked protective snow cover.

FORMER SOVIET UNION: FRIGID WEATHER IN UKRAINE AND RUSSIA

Frigid Siberian Arctic air brought a severe chill to winter grain areas of Ukraine, Russia, the Baltics, and Belarus during December 15 - 18, 1997 according to meteorologists at NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility. Temperatures as low as -33 degrees Celsius © were observed in eastern Ukraine and central Russia near Moscow, with minimum temperatures generally ranging from -17 to -30 degrees © through the period. An adequate layer of snow cover protected winter grains from the Baltics eastward through most of northern Russia as well as the northern half of Ukraine. Snow cover in the key winter wheat producing areas in the southern half of Ukraine and southern Russia (southern and central North Caucasus region, and lower Volga Valley) was thin or patchy, leaving crops vulnerable to potential damage. Temperatures moderated quickly beginning on December 19, improving overwintering conditions. While winter grains have likely sustained some damage in these vulnerable areas, the full extent of the damage will not be apparent until crops begin breaking dormancy in the spring.

NORTHWESTERN AFRICA: WINTER WHEAT PLANTING PROGRESSES WITH FAVORABLE MOISTURE

In November 1997, winter grain planting was well underway across northwestern Africa. Well-above-normal precipitation fell in northern Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia, providing abundant planting moisture. Below-normal precipitation prevailed in southern Morocco. During the first week of December 1997, light-to-moderate showers fell over Morocco, providing sufficient moisture for winter grain planting. Farther east, although widespread showers continued to provide abundant moisture for emerging winter grains, the wet weather may have caused some interruptions in planting. During December 7 - 13, light showers fell in Algeria and Tunisia, maintaining favorable moisture conditions for winter grain emergence and establishment. The following week, significant rain fell across Morocco, providing moisture for winter grain development. Drier weather across Algeria and Tunisia allowed for late-season planting to progress at a rapid pace. Rainfall during the last two weeks of December and the first week of January has maintained favorable moisture across the region for winter grain development. Even southern Morocco has benefitted from timely rainfall.

SOUTH AFRICA: DRY IN DECEMBER, MOIST IN JANUARY

During November and most of December 1997, rainfall was near to below normal in the western corn belt and near to above normal in the east. Temperatures have averaged near normal to below normal even in the driest areas. As a result, corn prospects were generally favorable in the east but guarded for the west. During December 21 - 27, moderate showers continued in eastern growing areas, while light showers helped to ease prolonged dryness in the west. However, periodic hot weather maintained high evaporation rates, reducing the beneficial effects of the moisture on crop development. From December 28 through January 3, widespread, soaking rain covered the corn belt. Rainfall totaled 25 to 50 millimeters or more in most areas, with many drought-stricken sections of the west and south receiving more than 100 millimeters. The moisture was extremely beneficial for vegetative corn, and the magnitude of the event may spur some late planting. However, corn planted this late in the season traditionally experiences lower yields, caused mainly by stress from summer heat and dryness.

INDONESIA: DRY CONDITIONS DELAY RICE PLANTING

Planting in Indonesia's major rice-producing areas began almost immediately following the onset of the rainy season in mid-November and will continue through January. The rains normally begin in late September or early October, but started throughout much of the Indonesian archipelago during the second half of November and first part of December. The late start to the planting season means the main-harvest period will be pushed back to April/May from the normal harvest period of February/March. This year's rainy season is still relatively weak, and Indonesia's 1997/98 rice production estimate is lowered this month to an estimated 32.0 million tons (milled basis), down 1.3 million from December. Area is revised lower reflecting a downward revision in 1996/97 harvested area, and yield is estimated at 4.36 tons per hectare, down slightly from last month and 1996/97. Production is estimated 0.5 million tons higher than in 1996/97, but down 4 percent from a record 33.2 million tons produced in 1995/96.

ARGENTINA: CORN CROP RAISED DUE TO GOOD WEATHER

Argentina's 1997/98 corn production estimate was raised to 15.0 million tons, up 2.0 million from the December estimate, but down 3 percent from last year's record crop. The month-to-month increase resulted mostly from reports of higher corn area and increased yield potential. Yield is forecast at a record 4.69 tons per hectare due to beneficial weather in central Argentina. Satellite imagery analysis by the Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Division of USDA/FAS indicates yield potential to be as least as high as last year's record yield of 4.56 tons per hectare. A comparison of late December vegetation indices from 1997 and 1996 indicates the main corn-growing areas of northern Buenos Aires Province are very similar to last year and the marginal corn-growing areas--southern Buenos Aires, Santa Fe, and Cordoba Provinces--are doing better than last year.

BRAZIL: SOYBEAN CROP RAISED DUE TO GOOD WEATHER

Brazil's 1997/98 soybean production estimate was raised to a record 30.0 million tons, up 1.0 million tons from December and up 11 percent from last year's record crop. The month-to-month increase resulted mostly from reports of higher soybean area and above average growing conditions. Yield is forecast at a record 2.33 tons per hectare due to beneficial weather in all the main soybean-growing regions. Rainfall was above normal for December in the states of Parana and Rio Grande do Sul, the two largest soybean producers. Elsewhere, rainfall has been normal. Scattered rainfall in Mato Grosso do Sul, which produces 8 percent of the total crop, might be of concern.

Nationally, harvested area is forecast at 12.9 million hectares, up 0.1 million from last month and up 1.1 million or 9 percent from last year's record area. Strong world demand, high international prices, and increasing sales of fertilizers, seeds, herbicides, and machinery indicated higher soybean area.

CHINA: STATE STATISTICAL BUREAU ANNOUNCES 1997 CROP ESTIMATES

China's State Statistical Bureau (SSB) recently announced its preliminary estimates for total grain, cotton, and total oilseed output in 1997/98. Total grain production is estimated at 492.5 million tons, down 12 million from last year's record crop and China's second-largest output. (China includes wheat, rough rice, corn, other grains, tubers, and soybeans in its total grain estimate). The excellent harvest was achieved despite a serious summer drought in northern China and excessive rainfall in parts of the south. Record crops of wheat and rice partially offset a large decline in corn production.

The preliminary cotton production estimate is 19.75 million bales (4.3 million tons). The SSB reported area was lower than last year, but record yields pushed production above the 1996/97 output of 19.3 million bales. Total oilseed output dropped by an estimated 1.0 million tons from 1996/97 to 21.0 million this year. The reduction was due to a large decline in the peanut crop, which was severely impacted by drought last summer.

CHINA: WHEAT AND RICE OUTPUT SETS RECORD

China's 1997/98 wheat production is raised this month to an estimated 124.0 million tons, up 3.0 million or 2 percent from last month and up 12 percent from last year's record crop. Farmers expanded wheat area by an estimated 0.4 million hectares to 30.0 million. Ideal conditions at planting and excellent spring weather led to a record winter wheat crop. Spring wheat, grown primarily north of the Great Wall, also benefitted from favorable weather this year. The estimate for China's 1997/98 rice crop is a record 138.5 million tons (milled basis), up 1.5 million or 1 percent from last month and 1 percent from last year. Generally favorable summer and autumn weather, the increased use of high-yielding hybrid varieties, and improved management techniques helped China achieve a record rice yield in 1997.

CHINA: RECORD YIELDS BOOST COTTON OUTPUT

China's 1997/98 cotton production is estimated at 19.5 million bales (4.25 million tons), up 1.0 million bales or 5 percent from last month and up slightly from last year's crop of 19.3 million. The revision is based on higher estimated yields in several key cotton-producing provinces, particularly Henan Province on the North China Plain. Lower planted area was offset by higher yields, which were increased by 6 percent to a record high 943 kilograms per hectare.

Generally favorable late-summer and autumn weather led to high yields in Hunan, Hubei, and adjacent provinces. High yields also were reported in the northwestern province of Xinjiang, where about 25 percent of China's cotton is grown. Other factors that contributed to China's output in 1997/98 include fewer insect problems than in previous years, the expanded use of hybrid varieties, and improved irrigation facilities. For several years, cotton area has been declining in the low-yielding provinces of northern China but steadily increasing in the Northwest, where growing conditions for cotton are more favorable and yield potentials are higher.

CHINA: DROUGHT IMPACT ON SOYBEANS LESS THAN EXPECTED

Soybean production in 1997/98 is estimated at 13.8 million tons, up 0.3 million or 2 percent from last month due to higher estimated yield. The U.S. agricultural counselor's office in Beijing reports that losses due to last summer's drought in northern China were apparently not as serious as previously anticipated. Production is projected to be good in the Northeast province of Heilongjiang, where about 30 percent of China's total soybean crop is grown. The estimated yield of 1.68 tons per hectare is lower than last year but close to the 5-year average.

SOUTH AFRICA: LOWER CORN AREA IN 1997/98

South Africa's 1997/98 corn crop is estimated at 8.0 million tons, down 0.5 million from last month and down 1.0 million from last year. Planted area in the commercial sector is estimated at 3.0 million hectares, down 0.2 million from last month and 0.4 from a year ago. Farmers reportedly reduced area in response to dry planting conditions and in anticipation of possible drought brought on by El Nino. Estimated yield of 2.66 tons per hectare is below the 5-year average and similar to last year's yield.

The U.S. agricultural counselor's office in Pretoria reported that farmers may have cut corn area by almost 11 percent in commercial areas. Dryness in November and December caused planting delays in the North West Province, and fears of El Nino-related drought in 1998 caused farmers in other areas to reduce corn area or shift to drought-tolerant crops. Planting continued into January in the western and northwestern Maize Triangle, where heavy rainfall since late-December improved moisture conditions.

To date, the effect of El Nino on South Africa's weather has not been severe. Rainfall was below normal in November and early December in most areas of the country, but heavy, widespread rain later in December has improved crop prospects. Cooler temperatures also have reduced the stress on summer crops.

UNITED STATES: CROP CONDITION AND PROGRESS

A split jet stream, induced by El Nino, allowed farmers to finish fall crop harvest and tillage operations under mostly dry conditions across the northern United States. However, the weather pattern caused continued wetness during December across the Southern States and delayed harvest and fall planting activities. At the end of the month, soil moisture supplies in the major corn and soybean-producing States were mostly adequate. There was concern about the lack of snow cover on winter grains and alfalfa fields. Grain movement in the Corn Belt was slowed by low prices. Some elevators in Nebraska continued to pile grain outside in emergency storage. Above-normal temperatures in the northern Plains benefitted livestock producers after the especially harsh winter last year. Farmers in the northern and Middle Atlantic States were able to finish fall harvest, but hay supplies were short in several areas.

Continued rainfall and below-normal temperatures from California to Florida delayed fall crop harvest, and a few fields remained unharvested at month's end. However, the majority of the soybean, cotton, and sorghum areas were harvested by the end of December. Snow in southeast Colorado further hindered sorghum harvest that was initially delayed by a late October blizzard. A small amount of Kansas sorghum acreage was not yet harvested at the end of December due to above-normal precipitation. Tobacco curing in Kentucky and Ohio was hampered by slow drying conditions later in the month. Record wetness in Florida hampered citrus and vegetable harvests.

The very mild weather across the northern United States promoted growth and development of the 1998 winter wheat crop but also melted snow cover on emerged fields. In Kansas, the crop was rated in mostly good to excellent condition at the end of December with little wind and freeze damage

occurring during the month. Statewide, snowfall and rain combined with moderate temperatures resulted in on again/off again snow cover. To the north of Kansas, dry weather during the last 3 months in the High Plains has left fields with no snow cover and subject to damage by wind and freezing temperatures. In the Northwest, snow cover was absent in eastern Washington, while good snow cover in northern Idaho and mild conditions in the southern part of the State benefitted winter wheat. Mild temperatures accompanied by snow and rain benefitted fields in the southern Plains. In the Southeast, planting and crop growth were delayed by late fall crop harvests and above-normal precipitation.

FORMER SOVIET UNION: WEATHER AND CROP DEVELOPMENTS

In December, above-normal precipitation fell in Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Lithuania, increasing moisture reserves. During the period of December 15 -18, temperatures fell sharply in most areas, threatening winter grains. Lowest temperatures during the period ranged from -17 degrees Celsius© to less than -30 degrees ©, exceeding the threshold for potential winter kill. Temperatures as low as -33 degrees © were observed in eastern Ukraine and central Russia near Moscow. An adequate snow cover protected winter grains from the Baltics eastward through most of northern Russia as well as the northern half of Ukraine. However, snow cover in key winter wheat producing areas in the southern half of Ukraine and southern Russia (southern and central North Caucasus region, and lower Volga Valley) was thin or patchy, and the wheat crop likely sustained some damage in these vulnerable areas. However, the full extent of the damage will not be apparent until crops begin breaking dormancy in the spring. Beginning on December 19, temperatures moderated quickly and rose above-normal by month's end, improving overwintering conditions. Since early January, unseasonably mild weather prevailed over most winter grain areas and was accompanied by widespread precipitation. While the mild weather favored dormant winter grains, it further diminished protective snow cover in Ukraine and southern Russia, leaving winter wheat exposed to extremes in the weather.

Tom Puterbaugh 720-2012 (January 1998)

FORMER SOVIET UNION (WESTERN)

Lowest Temperatures for December 15-18, 1997

● **Each dot represents 500,000 Metric Tons of winter wheat.** (NOAA/USDA Joint Agricultural Weather Facility)

—— Lowest temperature (degrees C) for the period December 15-18, 1997.

Areas with thin or patchy snow cover during the cold wave.

WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

January 13, 1998

- o A period of bitter cold occurred December 15-18, 1997 in winter wheat areas as far south as southern Ukraine.

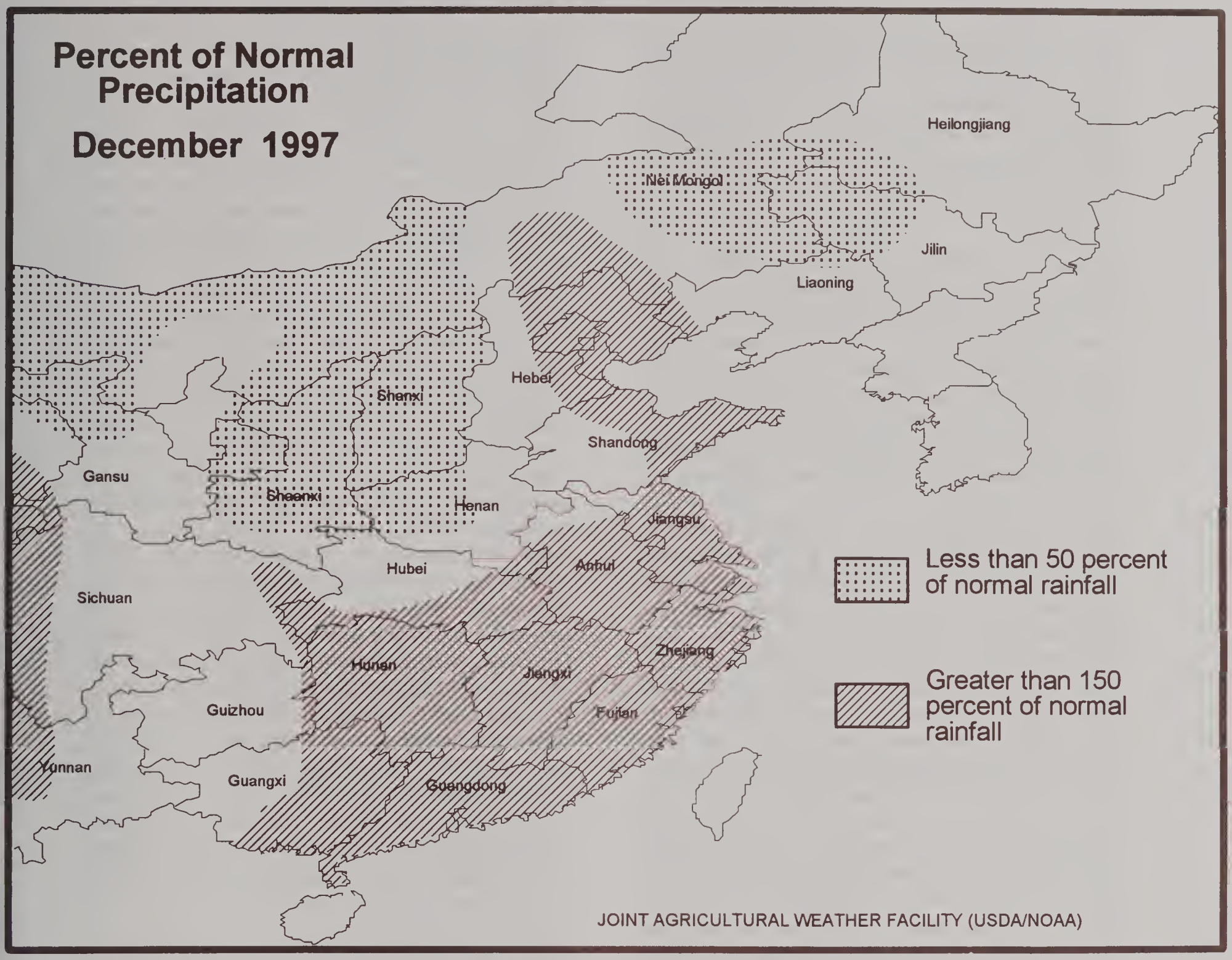
- o Lowest temperatures (less than -20 C) occurred over most areas, including traditional winter wheat areas in Ukraine and Russia.

- o A thin or patchy snow cover existed in southern Ukraine and the North Caucasus Region in Russia, where some damage to winter wheat likely occurred.

- o Since December 19, unseasonably mild weather improved overwintering conditions in most areas but melted protective snow cover.

MAP 5

CHINA



WEATHER AND CROP HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY 13, 1998

- Near- to slightly-above normal December rainfall increased long-term moisture reserves across the North China Plain. Despite some unseasonably warm weather, winter wheat remains dormant.

- Much above-normal December rainfall covered the Yangtze Valley and southern China, boosting moisture supplies for vegetative winter grains and oilseeds.

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WORLD GRAIN PRODUCTION FOR 1997/98

World total grain production of wheat, coarse grain, and milled rice for 1997/98 is forecast at a record 1,881 million tons, up 12 million from 1996/97 and 112 million higher than 1990/91. World wheat, barley, and rice production for 1997/98 are higher than last season, while corn and oats output are lower.

Wheat: World wheat production for 1997/98 is estimated at a record 608.2 million tons, up 25.7 million from last season, and up 3 percent from 1990/91. Area for 1997/98 is estimated at 229.3 million hectares, a decline of 1.7 million from last year and 1 percent below the 1990/91 level. World wheat yield is at a record 2.65 tons per hectare, due mainly to higher yield in China, India, and the United States.

In the United States, production has declined from 74.3 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 68.8 million in 1997/98. The decline over the period is due to reduced area. Despite extremely cold April temperatures for the 1997/98 winter wheat crop in the Southern Great Plains, the crop rebounded to produce record yields. In other parts of the United States and for the spring wheat crop, generally favorable weather boosted the total wheat yield to a record 2.67 tons per hectare. In the EU-15, production dropped from 1996/97's record 98.6 million tons crop to the current estimate of 95.4 million for 1997/98. Area in 1997/98 is estimated at 17.1 million hectares, only 0.3 million below 1990/91. In Canada, production declined from the record 32.1 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 24.3 million in 1997/98. Farmers responded to market signals by decreasing wheat area and increasing area for canola, flaxseed, and specialty crops. Below average yields were achieved during 1997/98 due to dry mid-July weather. For China, production has increased from 98.2 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated record 124.0 million in 1997/98. A record yield of 4.13 tons per hectare was produced due to ideal weather for winter wheat and generally favorable weather for the smaller spring wheat crop. Also, area increased slightly from last year to 30.0 million hectares. In the former Soviet Union (FSU-12), production has dropped dramatically from the high of 100.3 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 79.3 million in 1997/98. However, wheat production in Russia has climbed from a low of 30.1 million tons in 1995/96 to an estimated 44.0 million in 1997/98, near the 49.6 million tons produced in 1990/91. Despite a shift of nearly 1.0 million hectares, from 1996/97 to 1997/98 in the higher yielding winter wheat crop to spring wheat, yields increased to 1.71 tons per hectare -- due mainly to favorable weather. In Kazakhstan, production declined from 16.2 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 8.7 million this season. Area has been declining for several years as marginal land continues to be idled. In addition, poor weather and continued economic difficulties have cut yields during the past 4 years. In Argentina, production increased from 10.9 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 13.2 million in 1997/98. The increase can be attributed to a larger area harvested and a yield that has generally been rising due to increased inputs. Production is down 2.7 million tons from the 1996/97 record of 15.9 million due to a decrease in area. In Australia, production has increased from 15.1 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 19.0 million in 1997/98, but is down 5.6 million from the 1996/97 record level of 23.6 million. During the 1990's, varied weather caused sharp fluctuations in area and output.

Corn: World corn production for 1997/98 is estimated at 576.0 million tons, down 16.4 million from last year's record, but up 19 percent from 1990/91. Output has been trending higher in recent years due to increases in both area and yield. World corn area is estimated at 140.6 million hectares, down 1 percent from last year, but up 9 percent from 1990/91.

In the United States, corn output is estimated at 237.9 million tons, up 0.8 million tons from 1996/97 due to a slight increase in area to 29.8 million hectares. Yield is virtually unchanged from last season at 7.97 tons per hectare. In

1990/91, production totaled 201.5 million tons, increased to a record 256.6 million in 1994/95, only to decline in 1995/96 to an estimated 187.3 million. In the EU-15, production rose from 23.5 million tons in 1990/91 to an record 37.9 million in 1997/98. Since 1994/95, yields have risen steadily to a record 8.78 tons per hectare this year. In France, ideal weather has produced an estimated record crop of 16.5 million tons, with a record yield of 9.09 tons per hectare. In China, corn production has increased steadily (with the exception of this year) from 78.9 million tons in 1990/91 to a record 127.5 million in 1996/97. This year's corn crop is estimated at 105.0 million tons, down from the 1996/97 record crop due to a severe drought in the North China Plain. The estimated area for 1997/98 is down about 1.0 million hectares from last year to 23.5 million as producers shifted into more profitable soybeans. However, in general, demand for corn has resulted in an expansion in area from previous years , while yield has benefitted from the adoption of new technologies. In South Africa, production typically reflects the extreme variability in rainfall and temperature. Although production in 1990/91 was 8.3 million tons and is forecast at a near-average level of 8.0 million for 1997/98, corn output over the past five years ranged from a high of 13.3 million tons to a low of 4.8 million. The corn crop can be planted into mid-January and this season planting conditions have been favorable in the east, but mixed to less-than-desirable in the west. Recent, timely rainfall throughout most of the Maize Triangle was beneficial to the crop. In Argentina, production in 1990/91 was 7.6 million tons, but is forecast at a near-record 15.0 million for 1997/98. Stronger prices are responsible for a general increase in area, while yield has been rising steadily due to greater use of fertilizers and high quality seed. For the 1997/98 season, yield is forecast at a record 4.69 tons per hectare due to excellent weather and greater use of agronomic resources. The crop is tasseling in January.

Rice (milled basis): World rice production for 1997/98 is estimated at a record 382.8 million tons, up 1.1 million from 1996/97 and up 9 percent from 1990/91. Increasing yield and area since the early 1990's boosted production. Harvested area for 1997/98 is estimated at 148.5 million hectares, down marginally from 1996/97, but up 1 percent from 1990/91.

In the United States, production increased from 5.1 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 5.8 million in 1997/98 due to an expansion in area and improved yield. An increase in the estimated harvested area, versus last year, more than offset a decrease in yield. Yield fell in 1997/98 to 6.61 tons per hectare, off 4 percent from last year's record of 6.86 tons. In China, 1997/98 production is estimated at a record 138.5 million tons, up 1 percent from the previous year and up from 132.5 million in 1990/91. A record yield of 6.30 tons per hectare with virtually no change in area over last season resulted in the record crop. Excellent weather and continued improvement in technologies helped the rice crop reach this level. In India, production expanded from 74.3 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated record 81.5 million for 1997/98. The rise in output is due mainly to higher yield resulting from an increase in irrigated areas and adoption of new technologies. Yield climbed again this season, while area is down about 0.5 million hectares to 42.2 million. In Indonesia, a strive toward self-sufficiency has expanded area and yield slightly, thereby increasing production from 29.3 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 32.0 million in 1997/98. Dry weather during October and November delayed planting by a month and a half. However, December rainfall has eased the dryness. In Thailand, 11.3 million tons of rice were produced in 1990/91 compared to a forecast 14.0 million in 1997/98. Increased area and higher yield, especially in the second-season crop, increased output over this period. In Vietnam, production has steadily increased from 12.4 million tons in 1990/91 to 18.0 million estimated this season, nearly equal to last season's record level. Both area and yield trend higher as the Government continues to emphasize rice production.

Barley: World barley production for 1997/98 is estimated at 156.5 million tons, up 1.8 million from last season, but down 12 percent from the record 178.1 million produced in 1990/91. Although harvested area fell to 66.0 million hectares this season, an increase in yield raised world barley output. Yield is estimated at 2.37 tons per hectare, the highest level since the record 2.46 tons in 1990/91.

In the United States, barley output slipped from 9.2 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 8.2 million in 1997/98. Most of the reduction is due to lower area, estimated at 2.6 million hectares this season, slightly above the 1995/96 area, which was the smallest harvested since 1903. In the FSU-12, barley output has fallen from 50.0 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 35.5 million in 1997/98. In general, area has been relatively stable for the region. Harvested area is estimated at 21.0 million hectares, virtually unchanged from last year as a decrease in area for Kazakhstan is equally offset by an increase for Russia. Yield is estimated at 1.67 tons per hectare, up nearly 30 percent from last season's drought reduced crop. In Russia, production declined from 27.2 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 22.0 million in 1997/98. This year's output is up 38 percent from 1996/97 due to generally favorable weather. In Kazakhstan, production dropped from 8.5 million to 2.6 million during the 1990/91 to 1997/98 period. Production is similar to the 1996/97 season as a decrease in area is offset by an increase in yield. In Canada, production in 1990/91 totaled 13.4 million tons versus an estimated 13.7 million in 1997/98. An increase in area more than offset a slight decrease in yield over the 7- year time period. Hot, dry weather during the flowering stage in July caused yield to decline to 2.90 tons per hectare, down 9 percent from last season's record level of 3.18 tons. In the EU-15, production in 1990/91 was 56.2 million tons compared to 52.6 million estimated for 1997/98. With the reduction in set-aside area and stronger prices over the past two years, area has increased to 11.9 million hectares in 1997/98 ending 7 consecutive years of decline prior to 1996/97. Yield is slightly below last season's record of 4.55 tons per hectare at 4.43 tons, due mainly to excellent weather in Germany. In Australia, production has increased from 4.2 million tons in 1990/91 to an estimated 5.5 million for 1997/98. With the exception of the 1994/95 drought, area has been trending higher due to strong prices. This year's crop was negatively affected by drought early in the growing season.

Oats: World oat production for 1997/98 is estimated at 30.6 million tons, down marginally from last year and down 22 percent from 1990/91. Oat area continues to fall. Harvested area is estimated at 17.0 million hectares, the lowest level on record. Despite higher yield this season, falling area pressured production downward.

In the United States, production was 5.2 million tons in 1990/91. Output for 1997/98 is estimated at 2.6 million tons as farmers reaped one of the smallest area on record at 1.2 million hectares. Production for 1997/98 is projected higher than last year due to increased area from 1996/97 and the third highest yield at 2.17 tons per hectare -- surpassed by the record of 2.35 tons set in 1992/93. In the FSU-12, oat production was 15.1 million tons in 1990/91 versus an estimated 11.1 million in 1997/98 due mainly to decreasing area. Area has declined steadily from 10.4 million hectares to 7.7 million in the 7 years from 1990/91 - 1997/98. Russia, the FSU's primary producer of oats, produced 9.0 million tons in 1997/98, down from 12.3 million in 1990/91. Generally favorable weather throughout the growing season supported an 8 percent upturn in output despite a reduction in area. In the EU-15, oat production in 1990/91 was 8.0 million tons compared to the 6.6 million estimated for 1997/98. A reduction in area due to agricultural policy reform is the primary reason for the decrease in output. Production for 1997/98 is down 3 percent from last year as yield is slightly below the 1996/97 record level of 3.53 tons per hectare. In Canada, 1990/91 oat production was 2.7 million tons, lower than the 3.5 million estimated this season.

Relatively favorable prices over the last several years has led to area increases from 1.2 million hectares in 1990/91 to 11.5 million in 1997/98. Yield this season (estimated at 2.32 tons per hectare) is below the 5-year average of 2.48 tons due to untimely dry weather across the Prairie Provinces in July.

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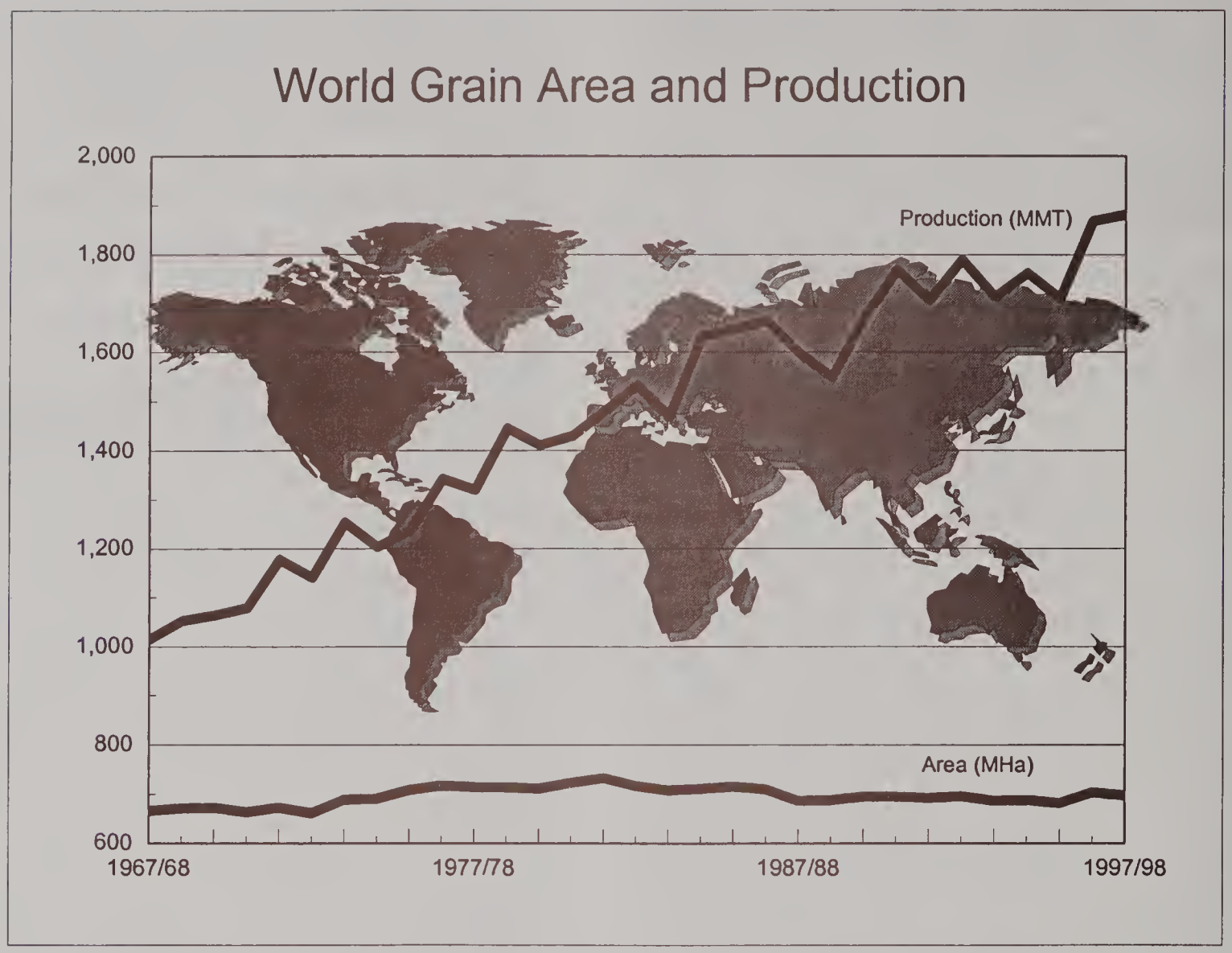
Ron White, Mexico, (202) 690-0137
Brenda Pressnall, North Africa, (202) 690-0139

CHART 1



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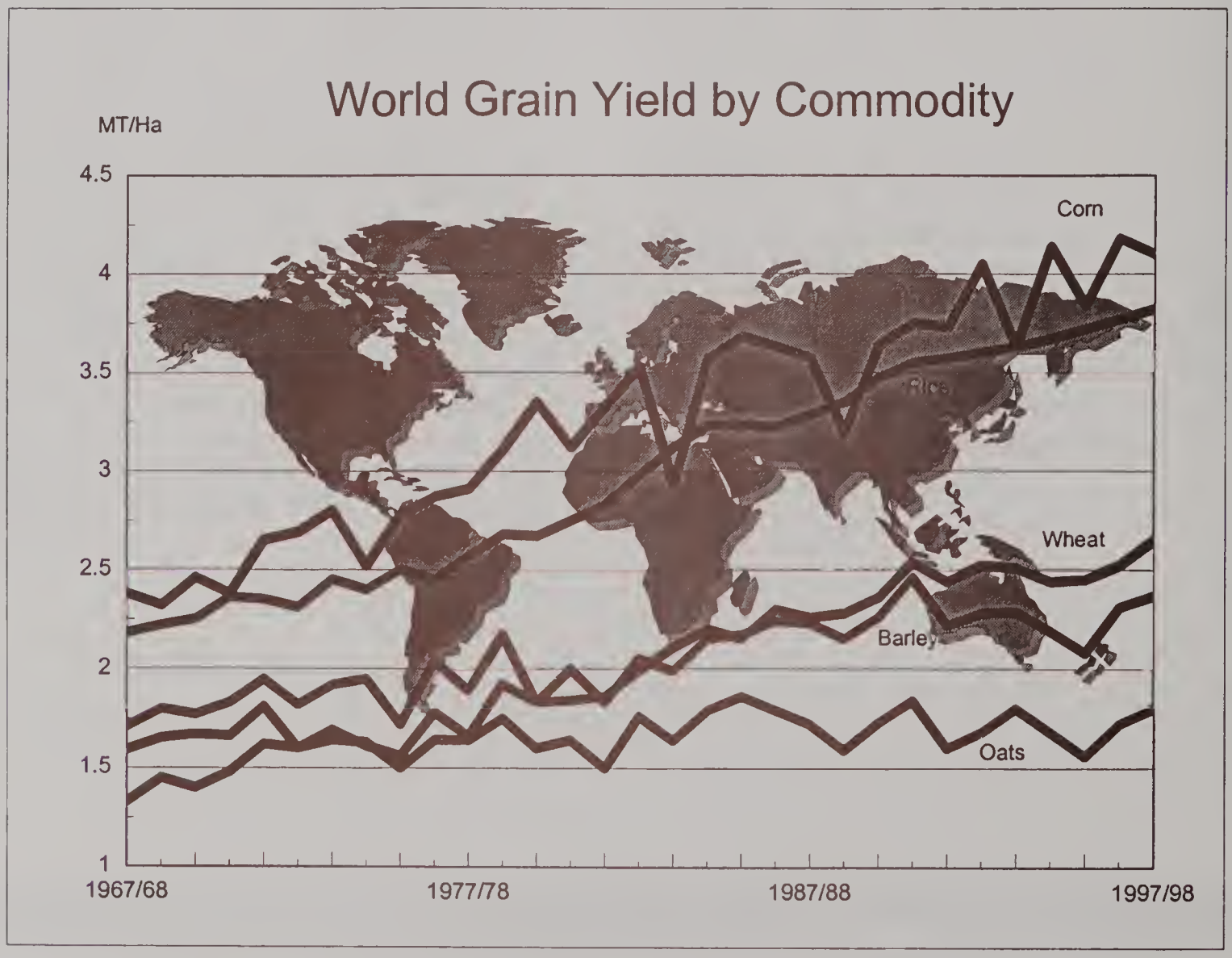

January 1998

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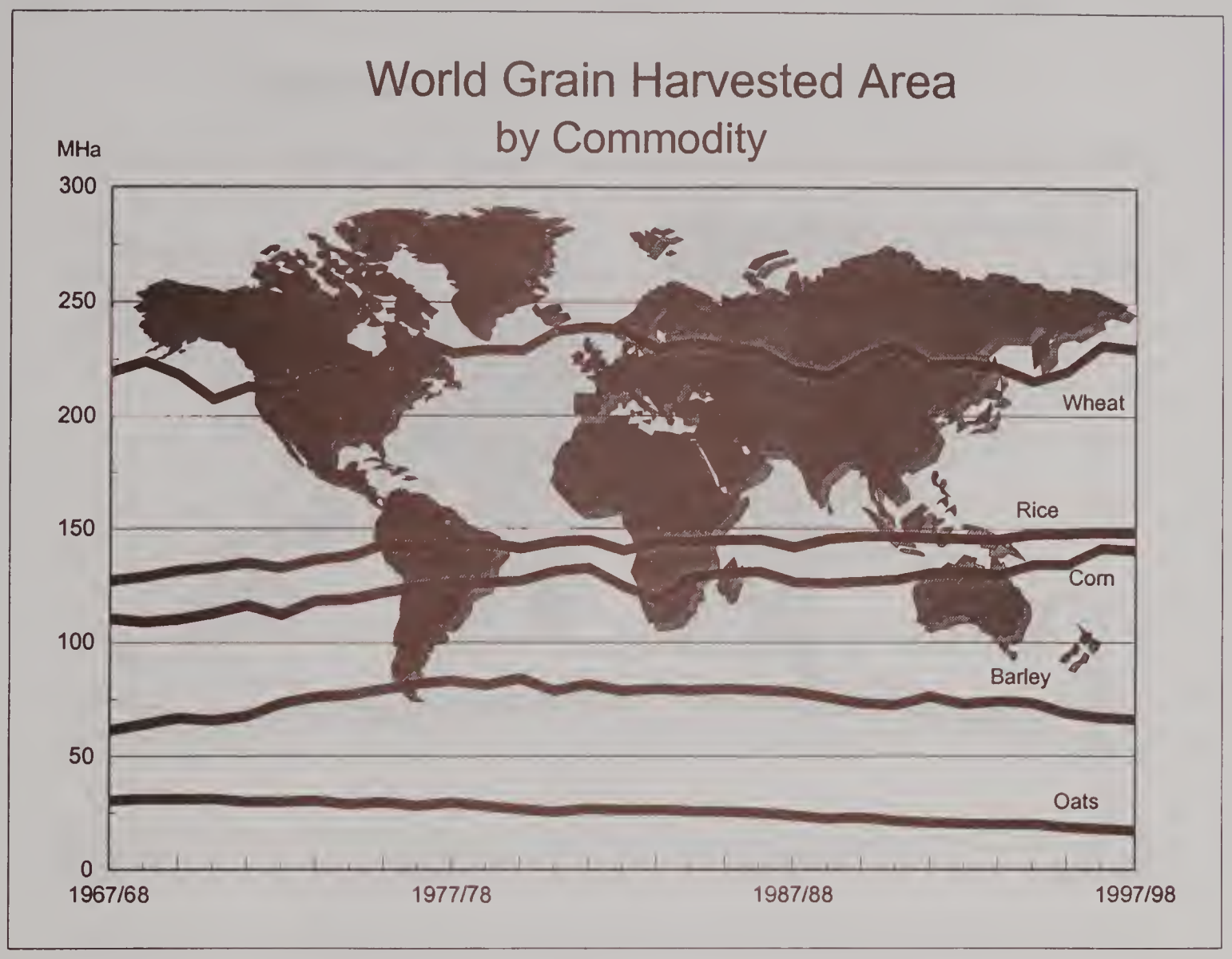
CHART 3



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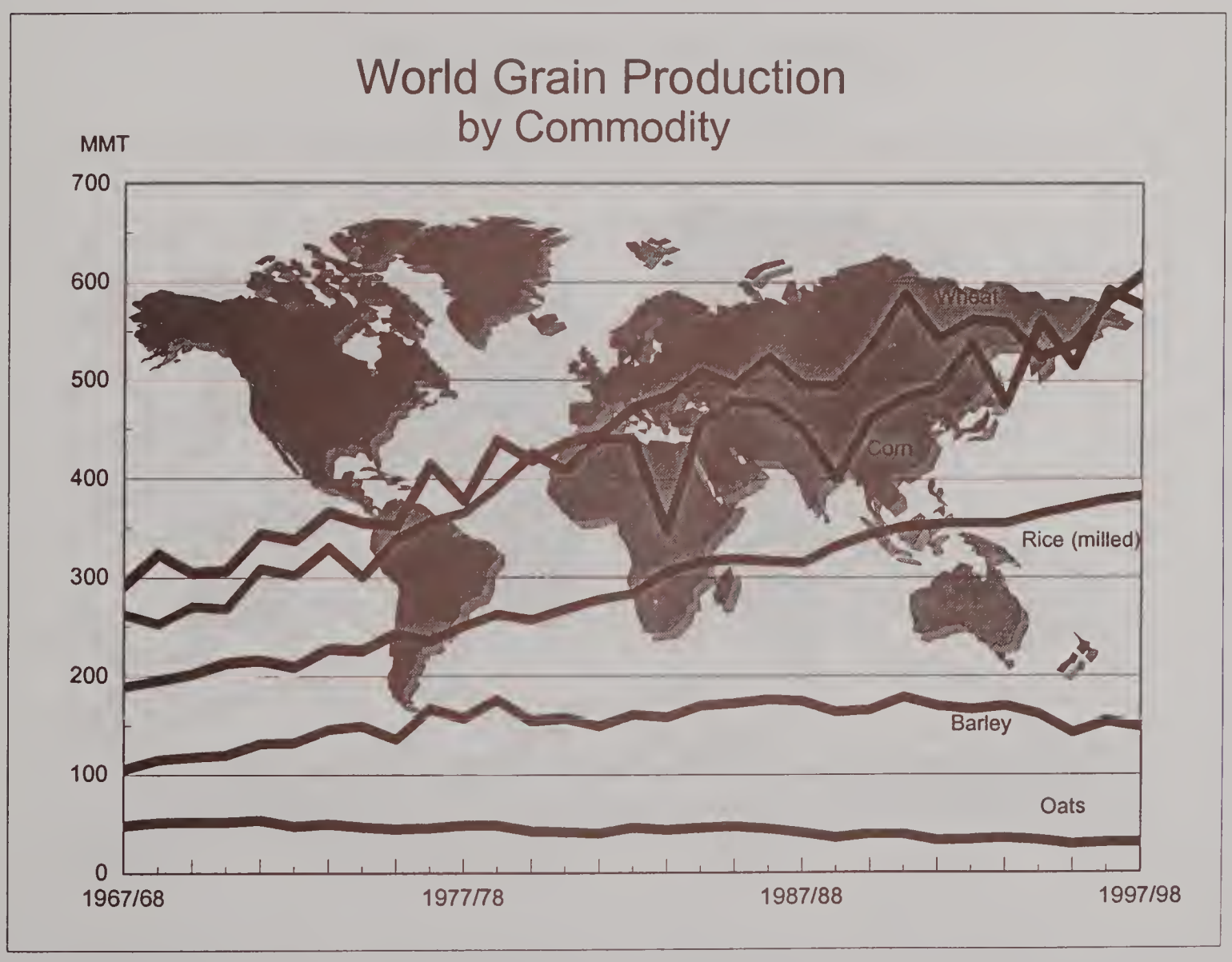
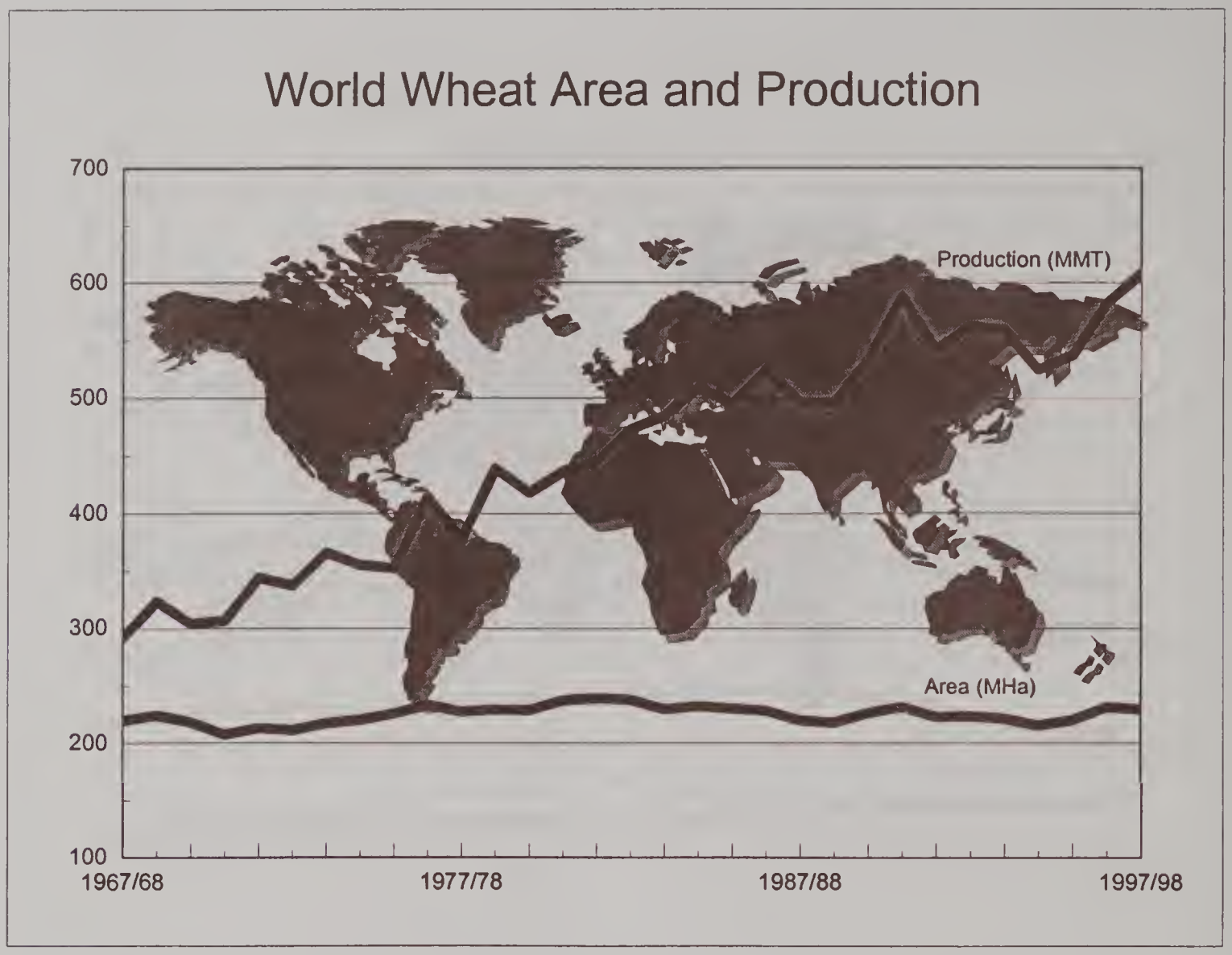


January 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Div., FAS,USDA

CHART 5



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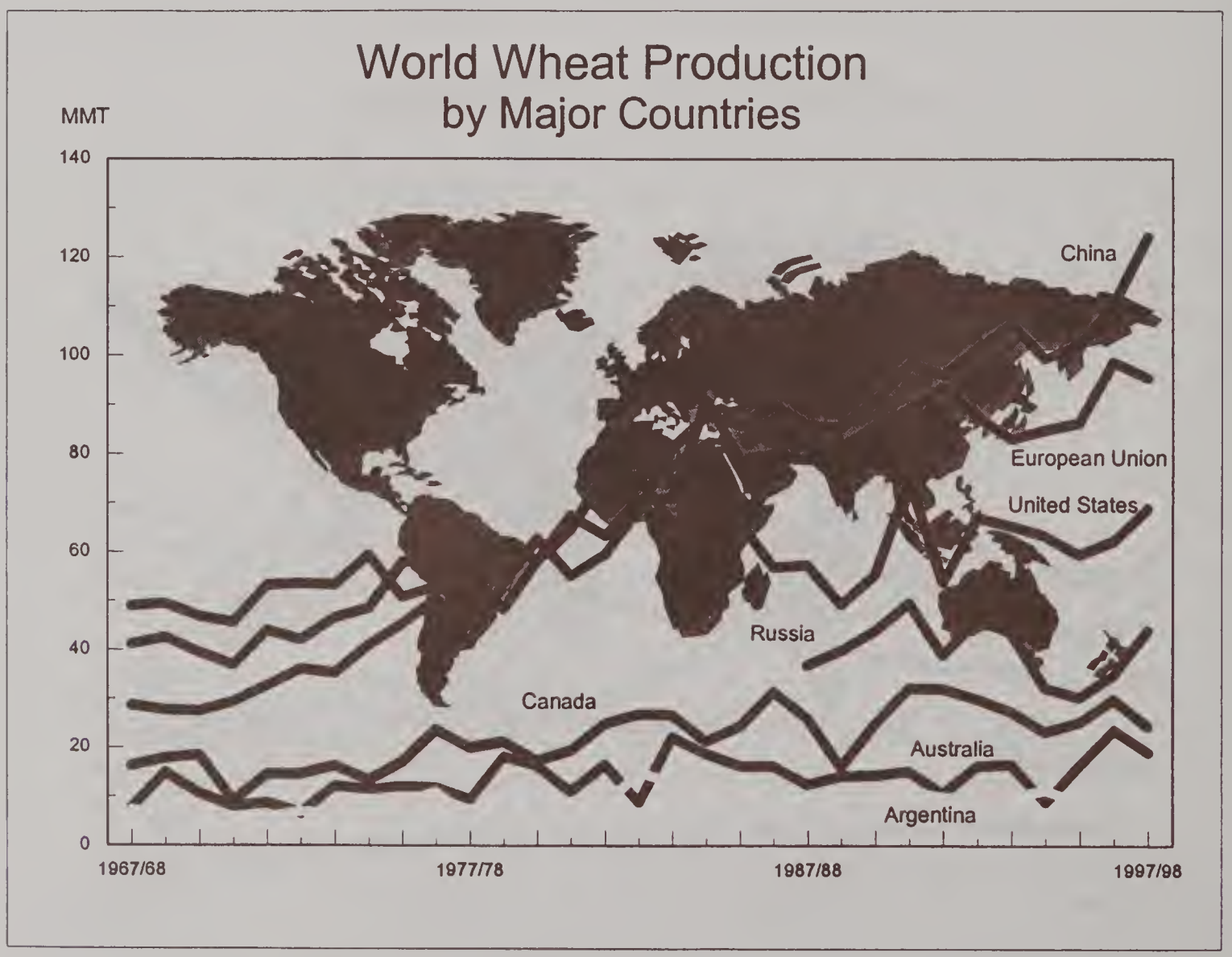
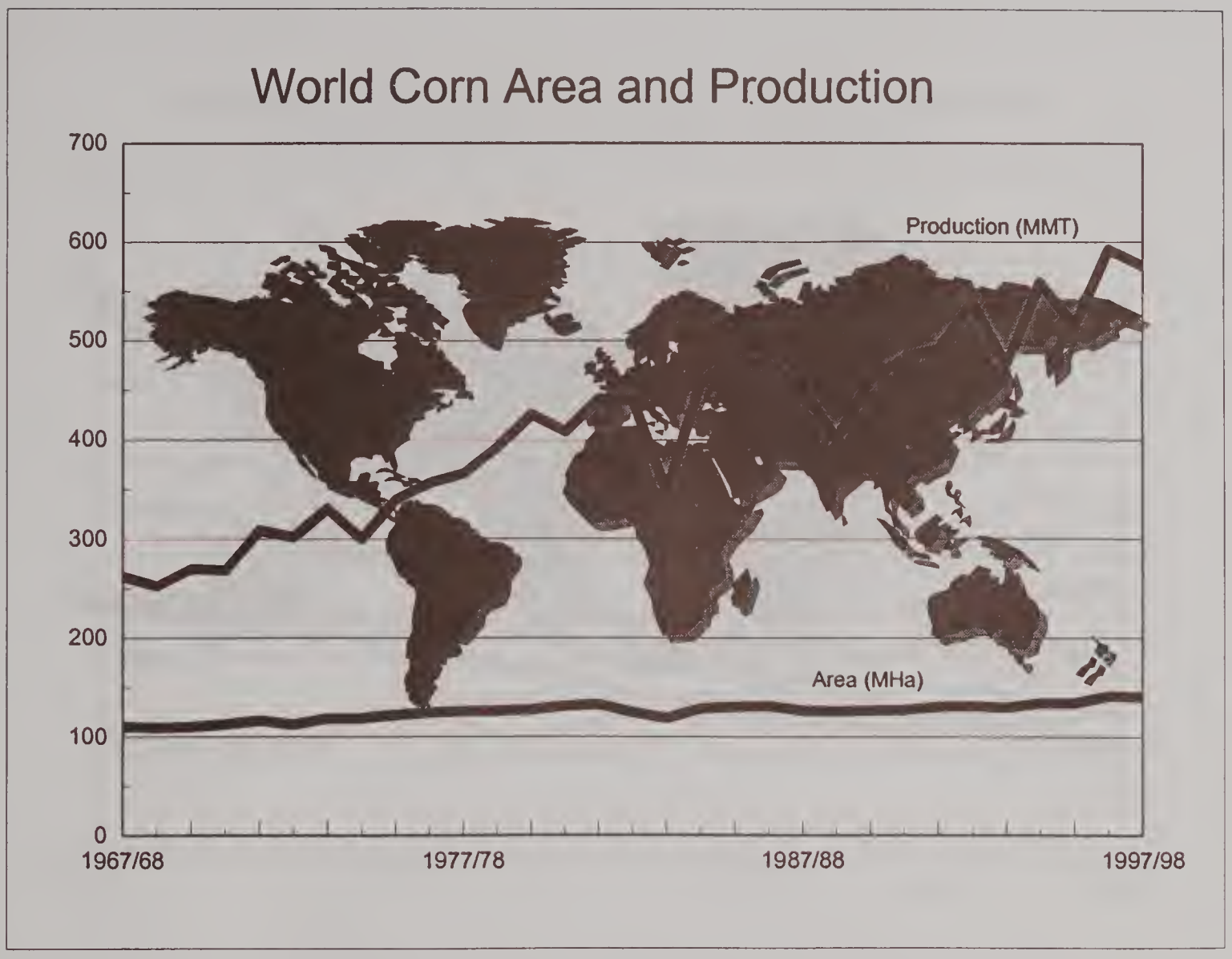


January 1998

Production Estimates and Crop Assessment Div., FAS,USDA

CHART 7



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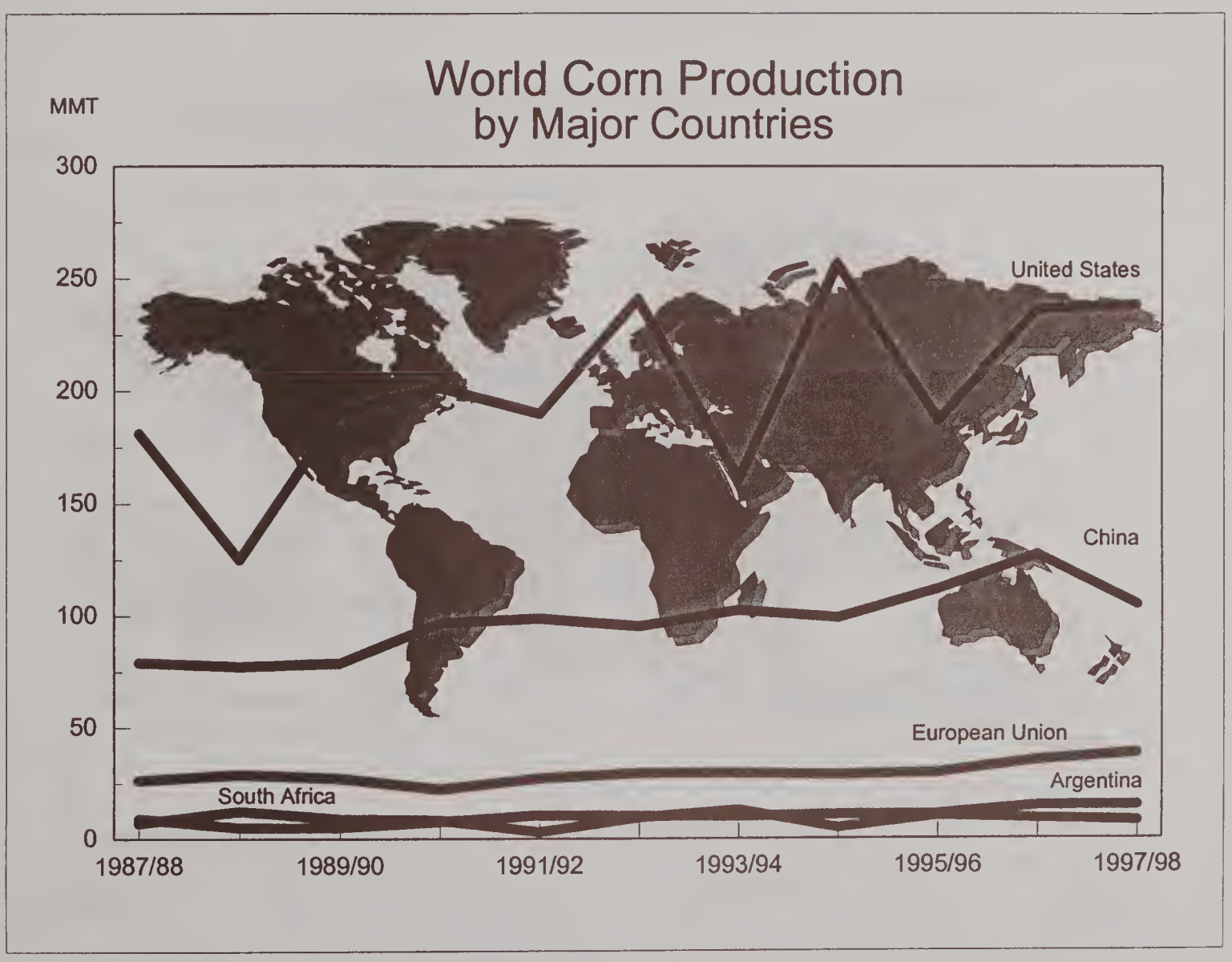
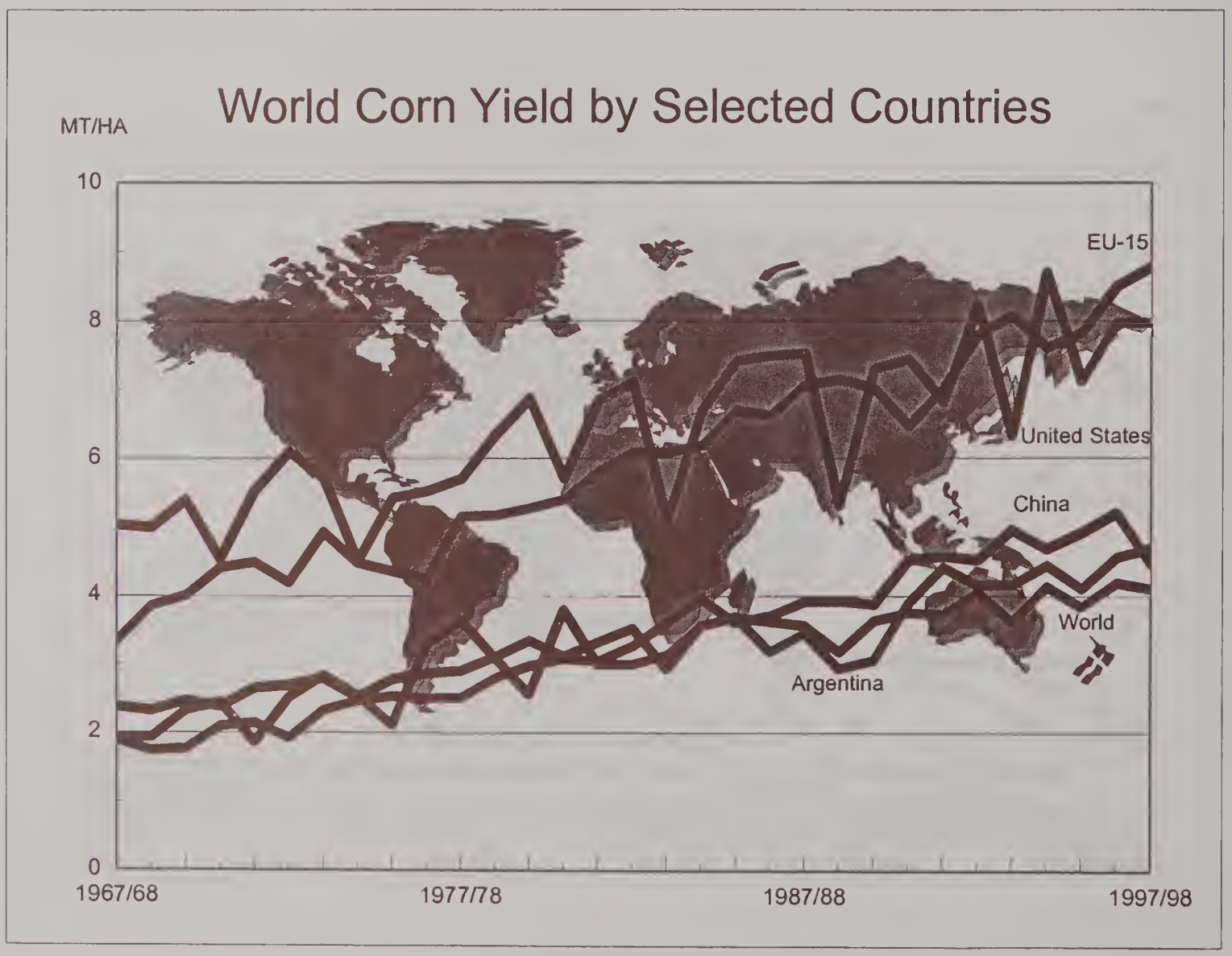


CHART 9

CHART 10



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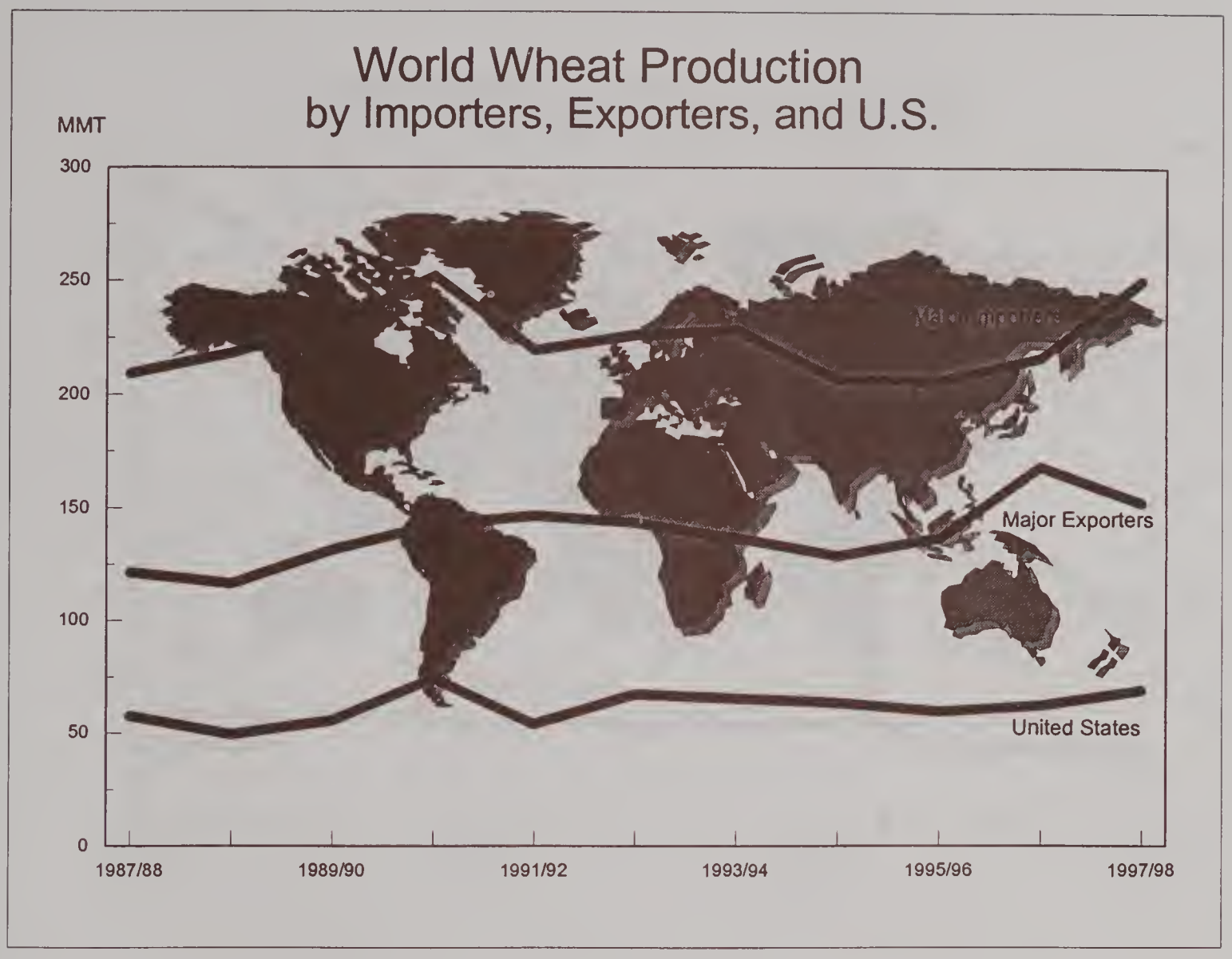

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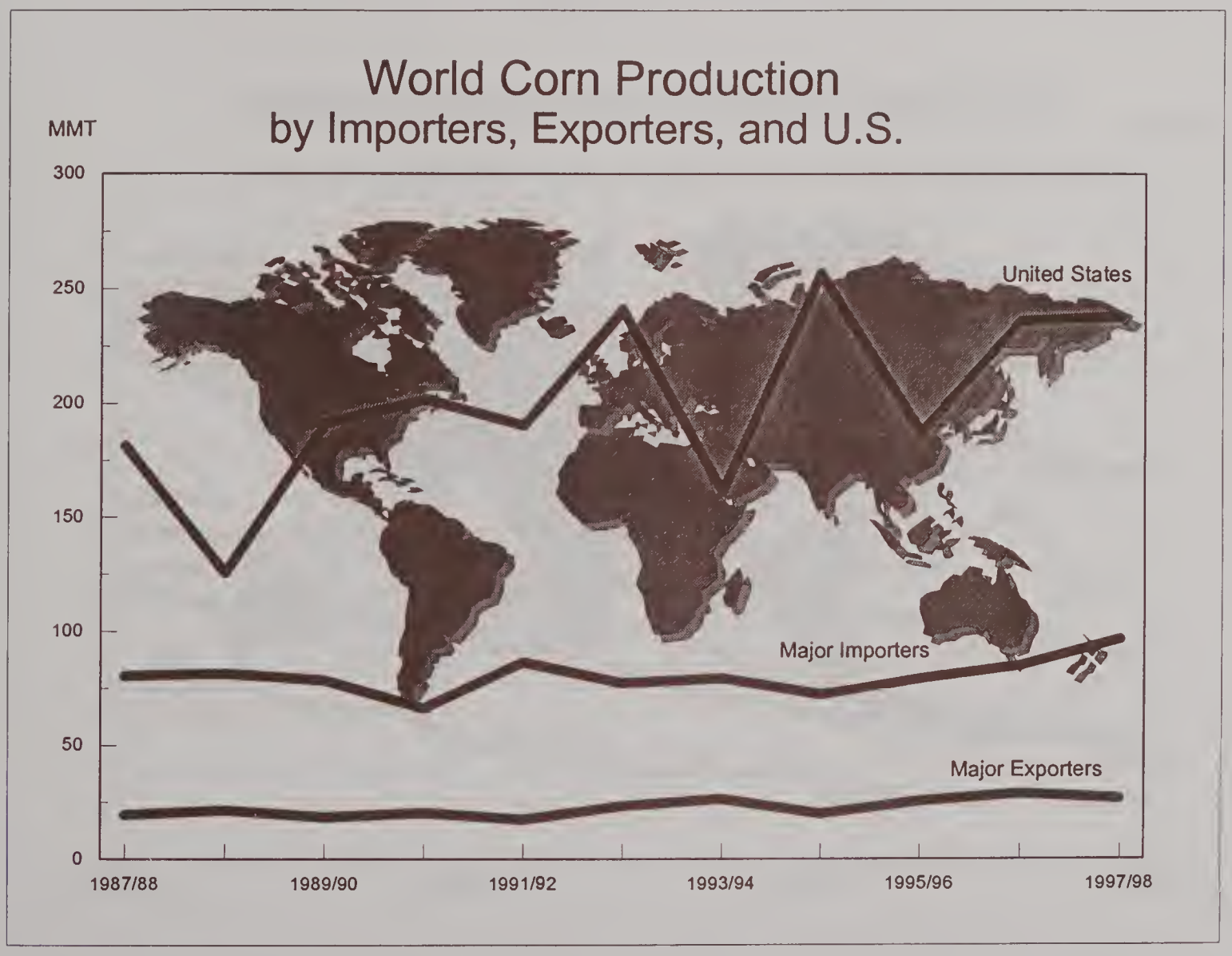

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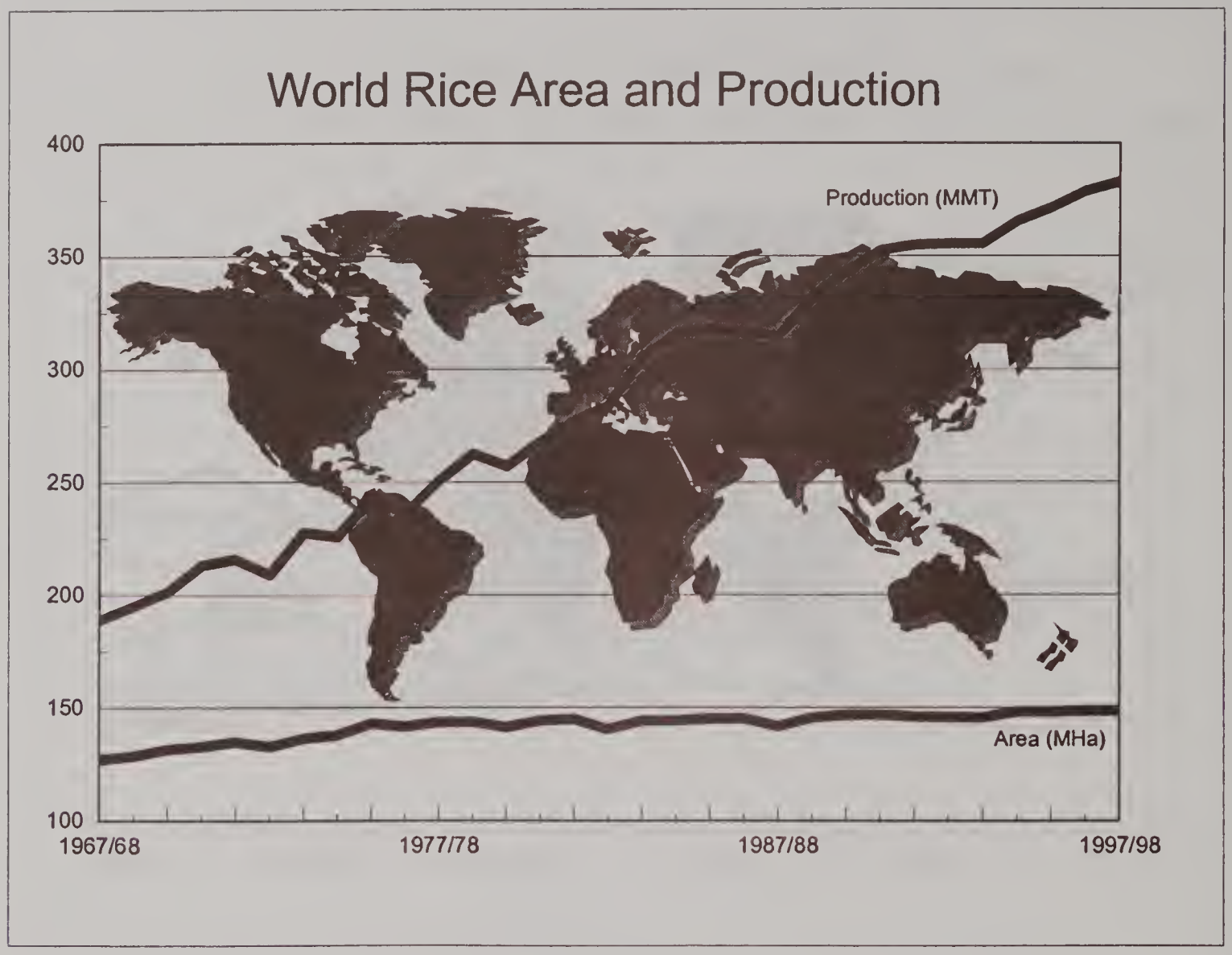

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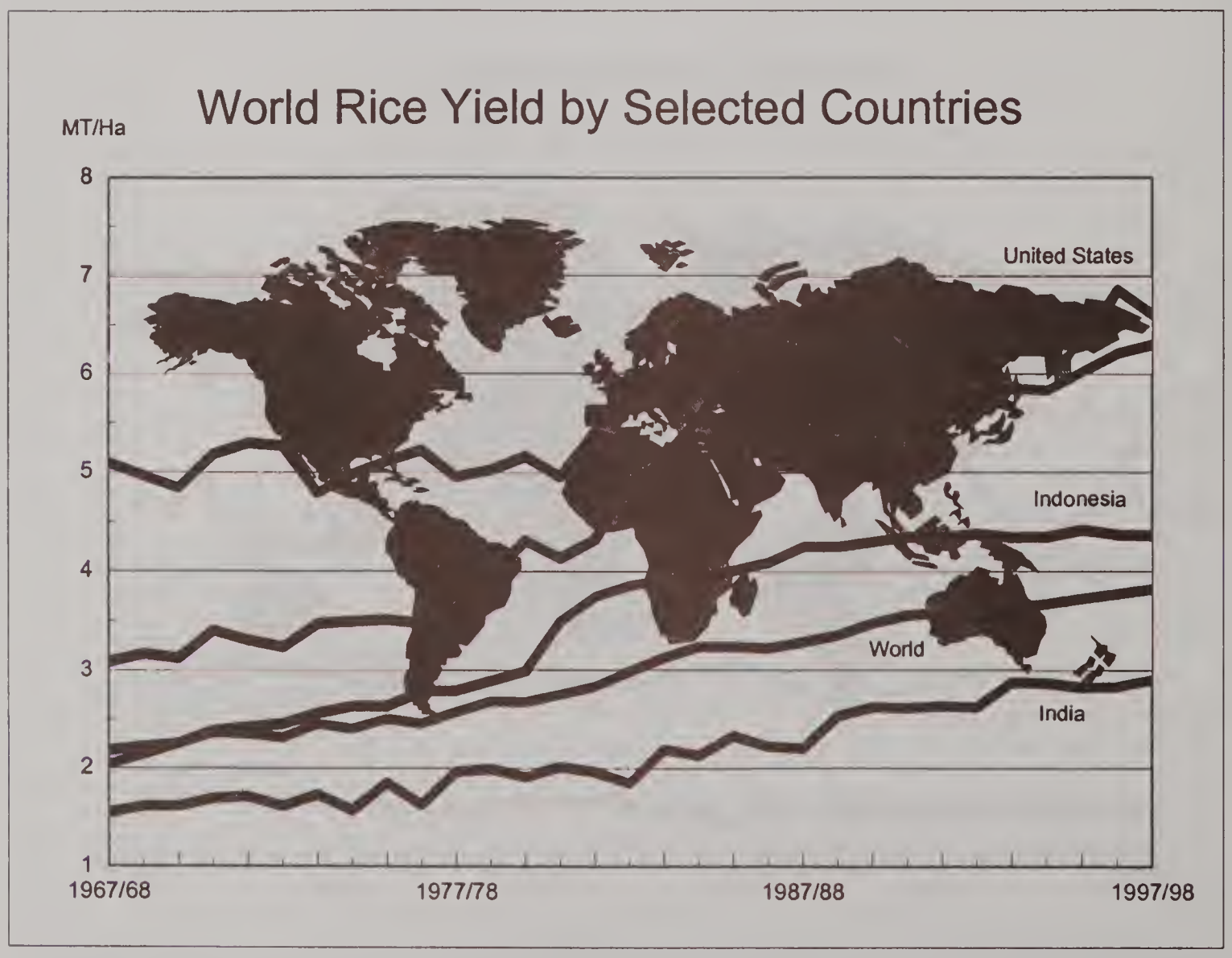

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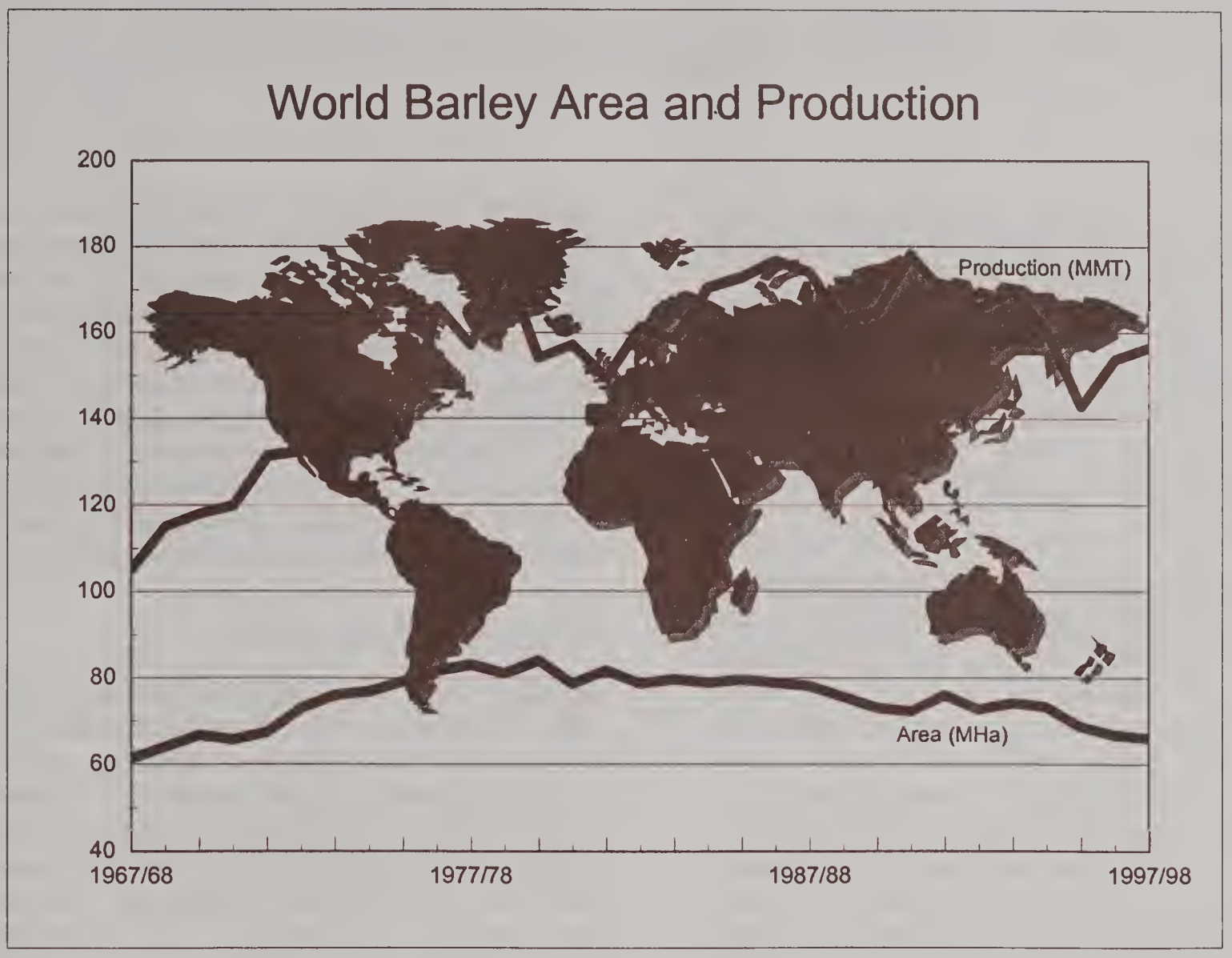

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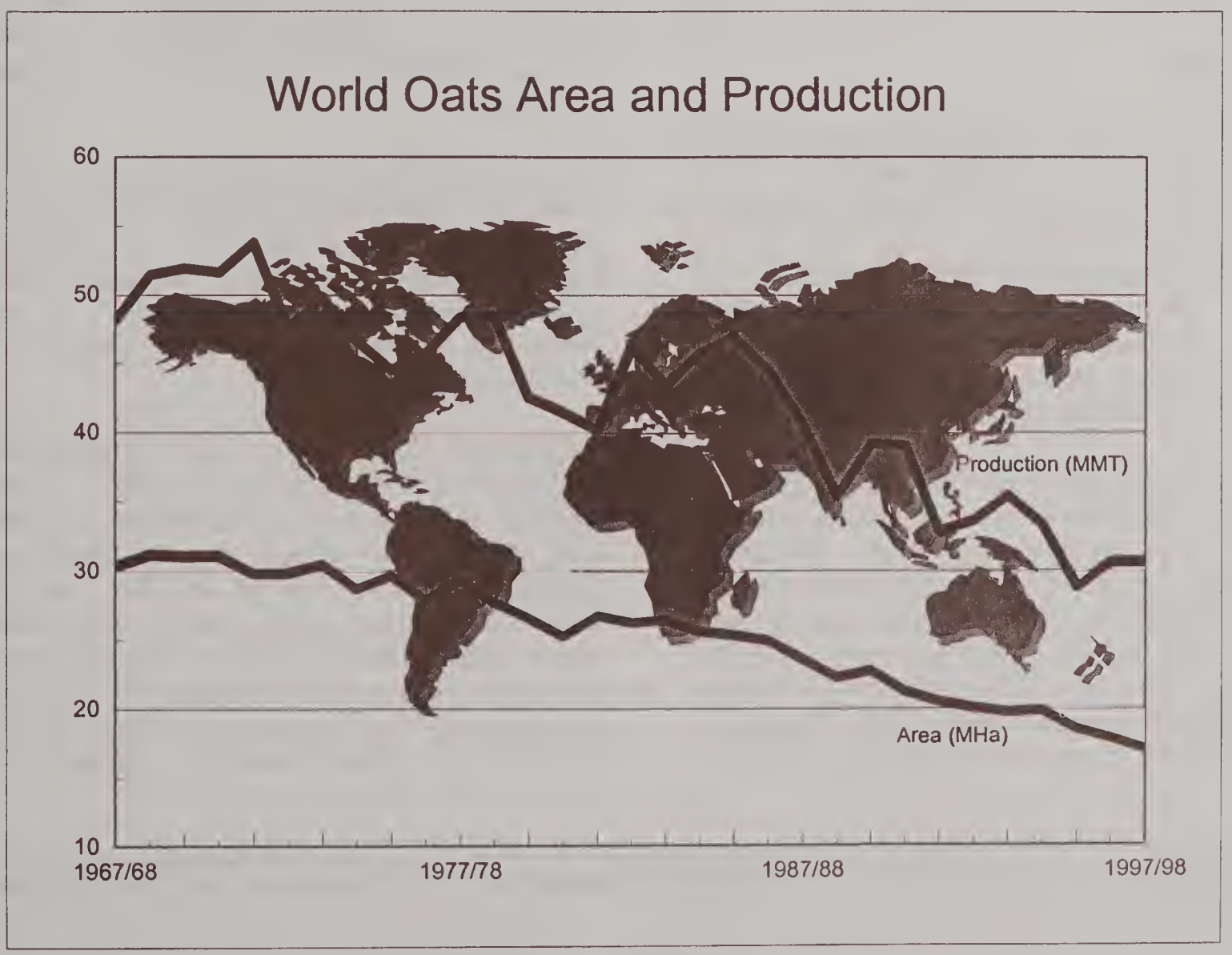

IMPACT OF EL NIÑO ON GLOBAL GRAIN PRODUCTION NOT AS LARGE AS ORIGINALLY FEARED

Summary

Although El Niño has affected regional crop production in some countries, world total grain production of wheat, coarse grain, and milled rice for 1997/98 is forecast at a record. World rice and wheat production are at record levels, while production of coarse grains is down 2 percent. While regional grain shortages exist due to El Niño, El Niño has not yet caused significant downward pressure on world grain production.

The development of the current El Niño has been closely followed since it began in spring 1997, as scientists, farmers, and policy makers tried to understand its behavior and devise strategies to cope with its potential impact on global agriculture and food supply. Early warnings of El Niño allowed government officials to take pre-emptive actions, such as setting up disaster assistance for farmers, putting aside funds for future relief expenses, issuing drought insurance, building up strategic food stocks, making changes to tax and food import policies, and encouraging shifts in planting patterns.

Introduction

- Late-arriving rains in Indonesia and dryness in Southeast Asia
- Below-normal early-season rainfall in southern Africa
- Dry summer in Central America
- Warm winter weather in Canadian Prairies and northern United States
- Above-normal rainfall in southern California and southern United States

What do these 1997 weather events have in common? Scientists believe they all have some correlation to the current El Niño. The term describes a situation where the trade winds, which normally blow from east to west across the southern Pacific, weaken or even reverse direction. This allows a vast expanse of warm water normally located in the western Pacific to drift eastward toward South America. As the water moves back into the central and eastern Pacific, the extra heat energy affects the strength and position of the jet stream and tropical storms, disrupting weather patterns in many parts of the world. The current El Niño developed very rapidly during April-May 1997 and soon matched the magnitude and size of the 1982/83 episode, which was the strongest of the century. The official NOAA forecast calls for this El Niño to persist through the winter of 1997/98 and weaken during May-July 1998.

Impact of El Niño By Region

Australia and Indonesia: In Australia, the impacts from the current El Niño event have not been as strong as anticipated. Although rainfall was below normal in parts of eastern Australia, timely rainfall supported a slightly below average wheat yield. With harvest nearly complete, wheat output is estimated to be the fifth largest on record. In Indonesia, late-arriving rains delayed the normal October/November rice planting and caused a reduction in rice production potential. However, rice output in Indonesia is still forecast above last season and the third highest on record.

Malaysia, Thailand, and Philippines: In Malaysia, rainfall has been below normal but adequate for rice production. In Thailand, below normal rainfall has lowered water reserves for the second rice crop. In the Philippines, localized dryness has reduced corn and rice yields.

Southern Africa: This region is especially susceptible to drought during an El Niño. In the Republic of South Africa, November/December corn planting was delayed due to insufficient rainfall; however, rainfall at the end of December relieved crop stress to the earlier planted crop. Rain that came in late- December will allow farmers to continue to plant into mid-January. An average size corn crop is possible, but timely rains are needed. In

Zimbabwe, a hot, dry December negatively affected yield potential for the corn crop and below average yield and output are forecast. In Tanzania and Kenya, drought earlier in the crop year followed by excessive rainfall later in the season has reduced corn output prospects.

India: Past El Niños brought dry weather across northwest India; however, the monsoon was near normal this season and there was no adverse crop impact. India's rice crop is a record.

Central America: Abnormally dry conditions covered the region during June-October. The major El Niño impact in the region is nearly over as their rainy season has ended. The harvest has ended and grain yields are estimated below average.

South America: Abnormally dry conditions have developed across northeast Brazil. Much of northwest, central and southern South America have been wetter than normal. In Argentina, excessive rainfall hampered wheat harvest and reduced quality, but is boosting corn output to a near- record level. In Ecuador and Peru, above-normal rainfall delayed rice planting.

Western Canada and Northern United States: This region experienced warmer and drier than normal rainfall in December. In the Canadian Prairies, where most of the wheat is spring varieties, additional precipitation is needed when the grain crop is planted in April to June period.

California: There has been no major El Niño impacts. In December, southern California experienced above normal precipitation, while near-to-below normal rainfall occurred in the north. Wetter than average weather is expected to continue throughout the winter.

Southern United States: This area has experienced wetter than normal conditions that are related to El Niño. Wetter than normal conditions through March, with cooler than normal temperatures across the Gulf Coast States are forecast by the National Weather Service.

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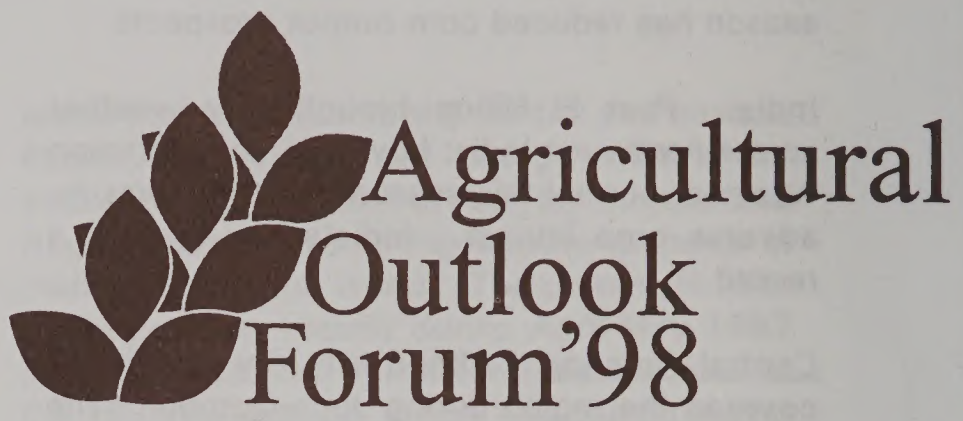

February 23 and 24, 1998
Washington, D.C.

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